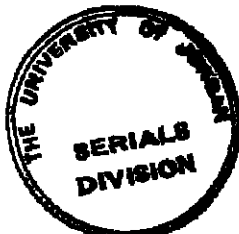


U.S. promises Jewish leaders anti-boycott move

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush's administration has promised American Jewish leaders it will make a new effort to end the 40-year Arab boycott of companies that do business with Israel. The campaign will be coordinated with the 12-nation European Community, Acting Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger said in a letter to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The letter was obtained Monday. Israel's suspension of new housing construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza "should be reciprocated with a positive Arab response," Mr. Eagleburger said. "We hope that given the changed political calculus in the region real progress can be made toward rolling back this anachronistic barrier to commerce and travel," Mr. Eagleburger added. The administration tried two years ago to arrange a trade-off in which the Arabs would end the boycott in exchange for a freeze on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. The scheme had the support of Saudi Arabia, but was rejected by Israel's Likud government on grounds the boycott was illegal and settlements were not. Mr. Eagleburger called the boycott inconsistent with Middle East peace talks. "We have emphasized that an end to the boycott would lead to a positive atmosphere in the region," he said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»



2 Algerian fundamentalists shot dead

ALGIERS (R) — Police shot dead two Muslim fundamentalists who tried to break through a cordon thrown round a village outside Algeria's port city of Oran, police sources said on Monday. The men were members of the Armed Islamic Movement, one of several clandestine groups committed to changing Algeria by force into a state ruled by Islamic law. Police, acting on a tip-off, surrounded the village on Sunday where they wanted "terrorists" were hiding. "Two of them tried to flee by forcing the police roadblock before opening fire on the security forces. After warning shots, police returned fire, killing the two aggressors," the official news agency APS said. Six other members of the movement were found hiding in a garage and arrested. They included one man known to have tried to kill an Oran policeman on Sept. 29, APS said. Two Kalashnikov assault rifles and other weapons, explosives, ammunition and cassettes containing subversive sermons were seized. In the Algiers fundamentalist bastion of Belcourt, gunmen shot and wounded two police inspectors, the newspaper Al Watan said on Monday.

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Boudiaf inquiry prepares disclosures

ALGIERS (R) — Six investigators probing the assassination of Algerian head of state Mohamed Boudiaf will release further results of their inquiry towards the end of October, the official news agency APS said. One man, who said he acted out of religious conviction, is being held for Mr. Boudiaf's killing in June. But the inquiry team has said it did not think the assassination could be put down to someone acting alone. The commission's initial findings, made public in July, said only that Mr. Boudiaf's shooting resulted from "blameworthy and criminal instances of negligence," making it easy for him to be killed. APS late Sunday said the actual judicial investigation into the killing had not yet started.

France wants to improve Iran ties

PARIS (R) — France said Monday that the first visit to Iran by a French government minister underscored its desire to strengthen economic and trade relations with Tehran. French Junior Trade Minister Bruno Durieux visited Iran Oct. 9-10. On Saturday he helped preside over the signing of a \$300 million contract supplying Iran's Tabriz petrochemical company with technical know-how and equipment provided by French oil engineering firm Technip S.A. Mr. Durieux also met with Iranian ministers in charge of oil, trade, industry and finance, and attended the Tehran trade fair.

Greece, Turkey at odds over Iraqis

ATHENS (AP) — Sixty-eight Iraqi Christians remained in limbo between a Greek island and the Turkish coast Monday, five days after Greece tried to deport them for entering the country illegally. The Iraqis were put on a Greek ship on the island of Kos Wednesday and sent to the Turkish port of Izmir, with a request that Turkish authorities take them in because they had allegedly been smuggled across to Greece by Turks earlier in the week. But the Turkish regional governor, Lale Aytaman, rejected this, saying there was no proof that the Iraqis had come from Turkey. The Greek tour boat Kostakis then left Bodrum with the refugees and has remained just outside Turkish territorial waters as the two nations' foreign ministries haggle over the Iraqis' fate. A Greek Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday afternoon that there had been no development in the issue.

Yang holds talks with Mubarak

BEIJING (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak conferred with Chinese President Yang Shangkun Monday, the first day of a five-day visit expected to focus on the Middle East peace process and bilateral trade. Mr. Yang greeted Mr. Mubarak at a welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People before they held their private talks, the official Xinhua news agency reported. "It is necessary for the leaders of the two countries to exchange views on bilateral ties and international issues of common concern," Xinhua quoted Mr. Yang as telling Mr. Mubarak. Mr. Mubarak's visit to China is part of a tour that also will take him to North Korea, Russia and Poland.

British aircraft carrier to enter Gulf

ABU DHABI (AP) — The HMS Invincible, the first British aircraft carrier to enter the Gulf, is due Wednesday in Abu Dhabi, a British diplomat said Monday. The light aircraft carrier is the flag ship of Rear Admiral John Briggs, wrapping up a six-and-a-half month deployment in a mission called "Orient 92." Arriving from the Far East, the Invincible's task group is to return home via the Mediterranean after its stay in the Gulf. The 20,000-ton Invincible, with a crew of 1,166, is described as Britain's most up-to-date aircraft carrier and command ship. One of three light aircraft carriers of the royal navy, it is equipped with eight Sea Harrier vertical takeoff fixed-wing planes and 12 helicopters.

Earthquake kills hundreds in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — A strong earthquake shook much of Egypt Sunday afternoon, and unofficial reports said at least 226 people were killed and more than 2,300 injured. Official casualty figures were 65 dead and 386 injured, but a ranking security official said that was much too low.

Hardest hit was the Cairo area. The state-owned Middle East News Agency (Mena) quoted a "reliable police source" as saying 130 people died in the capital and 2,000 were injured. The senior security officer told the Associated Press the number was 120 dead in the city.

The government's count had eight dead and 230 injured in Cairo, many in stampedes of panicked people. But the senior security officer said that would be updated later.

Frightened people ran into the streets and clouds of dust rose all over the city of 12 million after the one-minute quake, which was felt 425 kilometre away in Jerusalem.

"We have reports of many buildings collapsed," Fire Brigade Colonel Ashraf Sherif told reporters outside a fire station in the city centre.

State radio said the latest casualty figures were given by

Cairo's security chief, Rida Abdel Aziz, who is in charge of an operations centre coordinating rescue work.

State television said a school in a poor southern district had collapsed but there was no word on casualties there.

The Ministry of Health issued an urgent call for off-duty doctors at Cairo and 'Ain Shams hospitals to report to work.

Reporters said they saw balconies had collapsed on some small buildings.

Dazed residents stood in alleys in front of their homes, surrounded by rubble and too frightened to go back in.

The television said in its first bulletin, more than an hour after the quake: "Egypt experienced the most powerful earthquake in its history which caused a cut in power and telephone lines."

State radio quoted the operations centre as saying it had 20 reports of damage to buildings on the west bank of the Nile and four reports from the east bank.

Cairo sprawls from the ancient Pyramids of Giza on the edge of the desert on the west bank to the minarets of medieval Cairo on the east bank and new tower blocks and factories in suburbs to the south.

Ibrahim Al Himsi, an earthquake expert at the government's Helwan observatory, said the shock measured between 5.5 and 6.0 on the Richter scale, strong enough to damage a city extensively.

The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado, said the quake's centre had been 30 kilometres southwest of Cairo.

The tower block in which Reuters has offices on the 21st floor shuddered and swayed when the quake struck at 3.10 p.m. (1310 GMT).

There was no obvious damage to the biggest buildings in the city centre, such as the state radio and television centre overlooking the Nile and the 30-storey Ramsis Hilton hotel.

But there are many poor districts where families live packed in badly-built tenement blocks and building collapses are regularly reported.

In a four-storey building split by huge cracks, women on balconies threw bags of possessions down to the street.

Karam Fakhr, a grain merchant in his 40s, stood in the street with his two children. "Everything fell off the shelves and

(Continued on page 5)

2 Palestinians killed; detainees agree only to 'suspend' strike

Combined agency dispatches

TWO PALESTINIANS shot and wounded in clashes with Israeli troops died Monday and a human rights group said Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons had agreed only to suspend a 15-day hunger-strike for a week to see if the occupation authorities made good their promises to improve jail conditions.

Moutaz Saidam, 14, of the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Nuseirat, died from a head wound sustained in a clash with soldiers Sunday, reports said.

Riad Aziz, 20, of the West Bank town of Salfit died after being shot during a stone-throwing clash with soldiers late Sunday, the Palestinian reports added.

The army confirmed both deaths.

On Sunday, Israel moved reinforcements into the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to quell protests in support of the

prisoners' hunger-strike.

The police ministry announced Sunday night that Israel had reached an agreement with prisoners to end the strike in exchange for a review of prison conditions.

The Palestinian human rights group, Al Haq — Law in the Service of Man, said Monday the prisoners only agreed to suspend the strike action for a week to see if the prison authority made good on promises to improve food, increase exercise facilities, reduce overcrowding and limit solitary confinement.

Ministry spokesman Rafi Levy said in a statement Monday that prisoners in all Israeli facilities had been served breakfast, including eggs and milk.

But Palestinian leaders said inmates in at least four jails were continuing their protest for at least another day.

Several solidarity rallies were also held despite the announcement of the strike's end.

Human rights groups staged a one-day fast at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In the Jerusalem's Shufat neighbourhood, young Palestinians burned tyres and chanted slogans until police dispersed them with tear-gas.

In the Gaza Strip, Arab reporters said 10 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers dispersing a march at the Khan Yunis refugee camp.

The Khan Yunis protest took place despite a curfew imposed for the second consecutive day on most of the Gaza Strip to prevent further outbreaks of violence.

In another development, the Israeli army reported that two "infiltrators" were shot dead near Jericho in the Jordan Valley.

The army said the "infiltration" occurred Sunday night, shortly after the start of a Jewish holiday.

(Continued on page 5)

Somali clan leaders hold peace talks

MOGADISHU (R) — Senior representatives of Somali's two main feuding factions have held reconciliation talks along the "green line" dividing the shattered capital, Somali sources said Monday.

They said henna-haired elders of the Abgal and Habre-Gedir clans held several hours of talks Sunday and agreed to meet again to search for a peace agreement between their communities.

Somali analysts said it was a significant meeting that might help narrow the gap between self-styled Interim President Ali Mahdi Muhammad and his rival, General Mohammad Farah Aided.

The two helped oust dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991 but have been at loggerheads ever since in the clan fighting that has ruined the country. Mr. Ali Mahdi, an Abgal, controls north Mogadishu and Gen. Aided, a Habre-Gedir, holds the southern half of the city and much of southern Somalia, although his alliances with other clans in the countryside appear shaky, Somali said.

"Reconciliation is gathering pace, but we'll have to wait and see what emerges from these important talks," said a Somali working for the United Nations to fight famine.

Palestine Central Council to meet in Tunis Thursday

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Central Council (PCC) will meet in Tunis Thursday to discuss the next round of negotiations with Israel, the Palestine news agency Wafa said Monday.

It quoted Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC). The PCC, with about 100 members representing most Palestinian groups, is a smaller version of the PNC.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in Amman last week the council would decide the PLO's final position on whether to continue negotiations or withdraw from the talks, which are due to resume in Washington on Oct. 21.

The debates in the council, which sets policy guidelines for the PLO Executive Committee between sessions of the PNC, are expected to be heated.

Palestinian radicals will call for withdrawal from the talks. The moderate majority, led by Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement, advocates persevering with the negotiations.

PLO-Syrian relations took a new turn to the worse this weekend, when President Hafez Al Assad declined to meet with Mr. Arafat, according to Palestinian sources quoted by the Associated Press.

The snub was coupled with a

surprise demand by Damascus-based Palestinian groups opposed to the peace talks for the postponement of the PCC meeting.

The row with Syria could undermine efforts to reach a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement, and leave the door open for a separate deal between Syria and Israel that would isolate the Palestinians.

Already, Israel which had in the past rejected any "territorial concessions," offered Syria last month partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Inter-Palestinian disputes would weaken the Palestinians by portraying them as a divided house and unreliable partner in the peace process.

Mr. Arafat was expected to win renewed PCC endorsement, despite the hardline demands that the Palestinians should quit the peace process, begun in Madrid a year ago.

The hardliners complain that after six rounds of talks, Israel still opposes a withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This, they argue, contradicts assurances from the United States before the start of the process that the talks would be based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, demanding that Israel relinquish the occupied territories.

(Continued on page 5)

King receives Britain's chief of defence

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Monday British Chief of Defence Field Marshal Richard Vincent and an accompanying delegation in an audience which was attended by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb and British Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Evers.

King Hussein and Sir Richard exchanged views on issues of concern to Jordan and the United Kingdom.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker also met with Sir Richard and reviewed with him Jordanian-British relations, particularly in fields of defence and modern military technology.

The two stressed the need to enhance relations between the two countries.

Sir Richard, who arrived in Amman Sunday at the head of a military delegation, was also received by Field Marshal Abu Taleb, who briefed him on the development of the armed forces. Field Marshal Abu Taleb and Sir Richard reviewed the situation in the region, the Middle East peace process and Jordan's strategic importance in the region. The British chief of defence also visited the Martyr's Monument in Amman where he was received by the deputy chief of staff for intelligence and the director of the morale Guidance Department.



His Majesty Hussein Monday receives British Chief of Defence Field Marshal Richard Vincent (Petra photo)

Court hears wiretap evidence in Al Nafeer case after overruling defence arguments

By Sami Atiyeh and P.V. Vivekanand

MARKA — The State Security Court Monday heard recorded telephone conversations and public commentaries of defendants introduced as evidence by the prosecution as it resumed the trial of Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami.

Pindrop silence prevailed in the overcrowded courtroom as Prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi played 11 audio-cassette tapes containing what a prosecution witness said were telephone conversations involving the first and second defendants, deputies Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarash, and seven others.

The conversations, obtained through wiretapping but not immediately dated, were introduced as evidence after Presiding Judge Youssef Faouri overruled defence objections on technical and legal grounds.

The voices of the accused deputies were "positively" identified by sound technician and prosecution witness Khaled Maqadi. Other voices in the tapes were identified in a prosecution transcript of the conversations as those of the wife of third defendant Ahmad Ayoubi, "Khaled," "Colonel Nasr Youssef," Mohammad Zaghali, fugitive banker Ahmad Chalabi, former Jordan-Gulf Bank Director Hassan Abdul Aziz and prosecution witness Mahmoud Tayyem by the Jordan Times in this report are based on the transcripts, which were handwritten and not very clear. The play-back of the tapes in court through two wall-mounted speakers was occasionally marred by static, again making it difficult to understand parts of the conversation.

The first tape contained a telephone conversation between Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash. The gist of the brief call was who should attend a meeting in Libya. Sheikh Qarash suggested that he attend the meeting in his capacity as "deputy secretary-general" and Mr. Shbeilat said he had no objections.

Sheikh Qarash did not name any specific organisation although he did mention "organisations".

Tape number two contained a telephone call by Sheikh Qarash to the residence of third defendant Ayoubi, whose wife answered the call saying her husband was not at home since he was "detained" the previous evening. Sheikh Qarash sounded surprised by the news.

(Apparently the call was made on Aug. 18, one day after Mr. Ayoubi was arrested following a raid on a picture-frame shop he co-owns with the fourth defendant, Abdul Hamid Lideek. Sheikh Qarash was arrested on Aug. 27 and Mr. Shbeilat on Aug. 31).

Tape number three was a call between a man identified only as "Khaled," and Sheikh Qarash. The deputy was heard saying that "Laith is working in Jordan" and Laith, but Laith is essential, and "If you talk with brother Laith, he has information" and "All information is with Laith."

Tape number four was a call between a "Colonel Nasr Youssef" and Sheikh Qarash. Part of it went like this: "Yacoub: We met in an emergency meeting and we told him we are going

to do it, whether you agree or not, the second day of the war we announce militias."

"Nasr: Yes, I know."

"Yacoub: If you pass by, we can discuss further."

"Nasr: Alright."

"Yacoub: ... to buy things."

"Nasr: Alright."

"Yacoub: Should I buy or should I not?"

"Nasr: When I come we will discuss this."

Another conversation in the same tape, a transcript of which was missing, was between Sheikh Qarash and Mahmoud Tayyem, a government employee and prosecution witness who has admitted in court to have been a member of a committee in charge of the Al Nafeer group.

Part of the conversation focused on a municipal "fine" that Mr. Tayyem was supposed to have paid for violating building codes.

Sheikh Qarash accused the authorities of "discriminating against Palestinians."

"We either leave this country or rule it," he said.

"Are we Jews?" he asked. "Even the Jews are now becoming friends."

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq asks for Ekeus' mission

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi government has asked a senior U.N. official to oversee an upcoming weapons inspection to prevent confrontations related to the U.S. presidential election, the foreign minister said Monday.

Iraq wants Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. special commission in charge of the inspections programme, to be present when the 50-member team — the largest yet — travels to Baghdad Friday.

Mr. Ekeus has already rejected an Iraqi request to postpone the inspection until after the Nov. 3 election.

"We feel that now there is an abnormal political atmosphere because of the American election," Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahhaf told reporters. "Therefore, I have requested Mr. Ekeus to come to Baghdad to supervise the work of the inspection teams."

"This will guarantee that the Americans and others may not exploit the U.N. to their own ends," he said.

The leader of the inspection team said Sunday in Bahrain that his mission would focus on up to 200 Scud missiles that intelligence sources believe may still be hidden.

Nikita Smidovich, a Russian, also said the inspection was not related to American politics.

Iraq initially tried to delay the team's two-week mission, saying it is wary of a U.S.-engineered attempt to provoke a confrontation to help President George Bush.

Even if Mr. Ekeus does not come, Mr. Sahhaf said "at least we have expressed our fear."

"We wanted to make it clear that by avoiding misbehaviour from the Americans and the others, will make the U.N. job be done the right way."

Sheikh Saad renamed premier

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The Emir of Kuwait reappointed his heir as prime minister Monday in defiance of an opposition that emerged stronger from parliamentary elections.

Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was in office when Iraq invaded Kuwait more than two years ago.

The prince said he would not oppose opposition demands to open the so-called "invasion file" into the authorities' conduct after Iraqi troops moved in.

But diplomats described the reappointment, announced on Kuwait radio, as a slap in the face for the opposition which ran away with 32 of the 50 elected seats in Kuwait's first poll for a fully-elected parliament in six years.

In the run-up to the Oct. 5 elections, opposition groups called for the office of the crown prince to be split from that of the prime minister.

They said it would be embarrassing if parliament ever carried a no-confidence vote in a prime minister who was also heir to the throne.

Diplomats said Sheikh Saad's reappointment may also signal that other members of the cabinet dissolved by the Emir after the elections may be reappointed.

The Emir will appoint the new cabinet on Sheikh Saad's recommendation parliament convenes on Oct. 20, government officials said.

The official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Sheikh Jaber asked for the names of the new 16-member cabinet before he issues a decree appointing the new government.

Sheikh Saad retracted an earlier threat to step down from the post of prime minister if he did not get the full support for his past work.

A senior delegation from the

ruling Al Sabah family and leading Kuwaiti citizens visited with him and assured him of the country's support, according to press reports Monday.

Opposition figures have formed a committee to demand that at least eight cabinet seats be given to parliament members. In the past, Sheikh Saad has taken at most three members into the government.

Cabinet ministers have the right to vote in parliament. But parliament members said the test of cooperation with the assembly will be the number of members chosen for the cabinet.

Sheikh Jaber dissolved the parliament in 1986 for its harsh attacks on royal ministers.

The elections and formation of a new government are closely watched because of the intervention of Western democracies to end Iraqi occupation of the emirate.

Lebanon parliament to meet Oct. 15

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's first fully elected parliament in 20 years will assume power later this week in spite of a poll crisis, official sources said Monday.

A new government is expected to be formed as soon as the assembly takes over, the sources said.

The new 128-seat assembly is half-Christian and half-Muslim. But it lacks representation of most influential Christian groups, who boycotted all four rounds of balloting in protest at the continuing presence of Syrian troops around Beirut.

Polling began in late August and ended Sunday when the Christian headland of Keserwan voted for the last five seats.

Former Foreign Minister Faris Bouez led the winning ticket in Sunday's elections, according to final results.

Four other candidates from prominent families not strongly

allied with political factions also won in Sunday's balloting in Keserwan, where 24 candidates competed for the five seats reserved for Maronite Catholics.

According to an Interior Ministry statement, only 20.9 per cent of the 79,432 eligible voters took part, reflecting the discontent of right-wingers who boycotted the polls because they considered them a Syrian-imposed fraud.

Mr. Bouez, son-in-law of President Elias Hrawi, had been overseeing Lebanon's negotiations with Israel within the framework of the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli talks.

Voting for Keserwan's five seats, originally scheduled for Aug. 30, was postponed when only one candidate was willing to run.

The rest of Lebanon voted in late August and early September, electing 123 legislators to the 128-member parliament. The Christians have insisted

that voting in Lebanon's first parliamentary elections since 1972 should take place only after Syria's 40,000 peace-keeping soldiers withdraw from major Lebanese cities.

Syria, whose troops entered Lebanon in 1976 after the outbreak of civil war, has said it will withdraw eventually but has declined to set a date.

The elections have not only deepened the Christian-Muslim rift but have also divided the Maronite community itself.

Much to the dismay of the Christians, the new assembly is dominated by pro-Syrian members and for the first time includes pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalists.

Official sources said the parliament is due to assume power on Oct. 15 and will meet a day later to elect a new speaker. Under Lebanon's confessional political system, he must be a Shiite Muslim.

Iraq shows signs of hard currency crunch, traders say

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

AMMAN — Iraq, squeezed by two years of trade sanctions and a shrinking dinar, is showing signs of a hard-currency crunch, dealers and traders said Monday.

They said Baghdad appeared to be increasingly drawing on gold reserves for basic food supplies and trying to entice reluctant merchants to accept payment in the volatile dinar instead of traditional dollars.

Exchange dealers in Jordan, Iraq's main link with the outside world since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, said Baghdad had been using gold since the beginning of the year for smaller food purchases as well as large deals declared to the U.N. sanctions committee.

Even the smaller transactions were drying up, probably because Baghdad wanted to conserve its remaining gold stocks.

"We are feeling the shortage because traders have begun bringing in dinars instead of the dollar and the gold has almost disappeared," said one dealer.

He estimated that between 25 to 30 tonnes of Iraqi gold, most of it government reserves, had passed through Jordan since trade sanctions imposed after the invasion of Kuwait stopped oil sales by one of the world's biggest producers.

The gold sales do not con-

tribute United Nations sanctions when used for approved purchases.

Diplomats in contact with Iraq said remaining liquid assets were almost impossible to gauge but they agreed that conserving hard currency appeared to have become a government priority.

Australia said in August Iraq had bought 900,000 tonnes of wheat, using 10 tonnes of gold bullion worth about \$150 million to pay for most of it.

"It's better than dying," one Iraqi official said privately when asked why Baghdad was dipping into its gold vaults for food.

Traders in Jordan, Baghdad's supply line since the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, have largely stopped doing business with Iraq since Baghdad ordered the execution of 42 merchants in July as part of a drive against profiteering.

Baghdad has tried to coax Iraqi traders back into the market. But few are biting because of the government's new 10 per cent profit ceiling on deals and its offer of dinars on delivery.

"By the time we take the dinars and change them to dollars, the dinar has usually dropped five points," said one merchant.

The Iraqi currency, vulnerable to virtually every rumour sweeping Baghdad, has recently traded at about 35 to the dollar after plunging to a record low of 47 at

the universally-used black market rate. It was about 18 to the dollar in July.

Iraq's finance ministry said last month that Baghdad stood by its official value which makes every dinar worth \$3.2.

In a move to further conserve hard currency and increase self-reliance after the July executions, Iraq excluded more than 100 "luxury" items including shampoo and olive oil from permitted imports.

Diplomats said Iraq seemed to have realised it might have made a mistake by killing the merchants — the result was food shortages and higher prices.

Some Iraqis said President Saddam Hussein called in relatives of several of the merchants last month to return assets the government had seized.

Baghdad's push to reopen talks with the United Nations to sell oil after rejecting previous proposals was a further sign it was strapped for cash.

Iraq, which imported 70 per cent of its food before the war, has asked approval to sell \$4 billion worth of oil over six months to raise money it says it needs to feed its people.

Businessmen and diplomats said Baghdad also appeared to be trying to raise money and conserve cash through barter deals and selling oil futures offering delivery at heavily discounted prices once sanctions were lifted.

Thousands of Somalis eat grass

By Edith M. Lederer
The Associated Press

WADJIAI, Somalia — The huge international relief effort for Somalia's starving has bypassed Bashir Ibrahim Muktar and his family — they've been reduced to eating grass to survive.

They are far from alone.

Abdullah Ibrahim Haidar, commissioner of the Acaba district, says thousands of people in the district's 376 villages are surviving on grass because the relief effort has targeted only the city of Bur Acaba.

Even there, the food has been insufficient to feed all the hungry.

Mr. Muktar lives just 10 kilometres from Bur Acaba, but he and his two wives and nine children have decided not to try their luck at the aid kitchens there, fearing they might not get food, or could die of disease or exposure in the refugee-swollen city.

Instead, they have decided to stay on their land and put their trust in God.

"The circumstances force us to stay," said the 38-year-old farmer. "There is nothing else to be done."

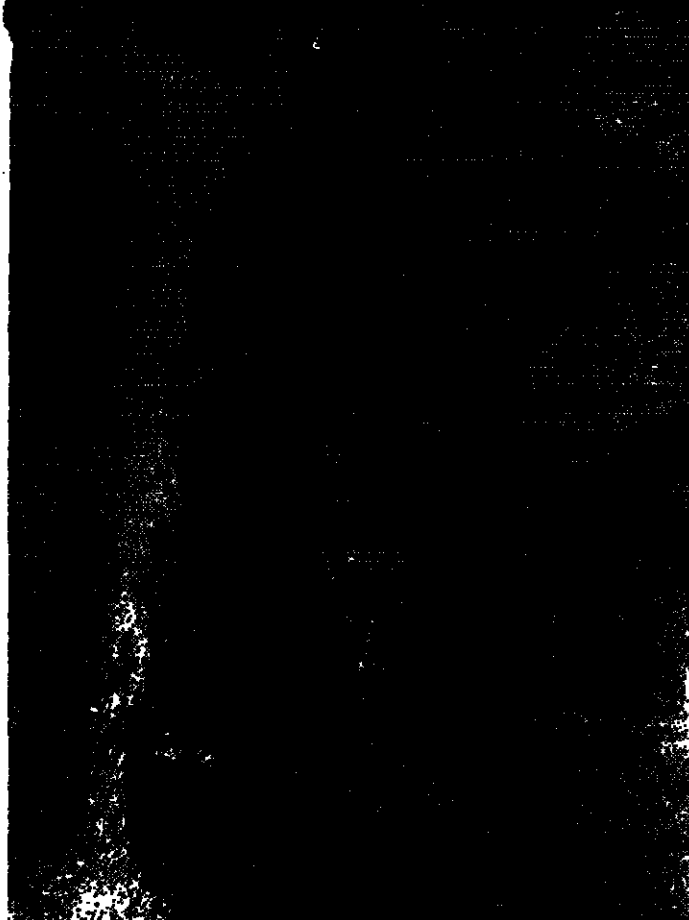
Mr. Haidar said he had asked the Red Cross and other agencies to provide food and seeds to the district's villages, but has received no response.

Relief agencies, which want to keep Somalis from migrating to large towns in search of food, have started distributing food to rural parts of the Baidoa region, about 65 kilometres to the northwest. But they do not have the food or manpower to launch a similar operation in Acaba.

The tragedy of Wadajiai is typical of many small farming villages which were caught in the fighting that ousted dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in January 1991.

"Supporters of Siad Barre's regime came here and started looting food and killing people," said Mohammed Yere Aden, 67, a village clan elder. "We had cattle, camels and goats, too, but they were also looted. Now, we have nothing."

Before the fighting and famine, about 600 people lived in Wadajiai, a cluster of conical huts with mud-baked walls and thatched roofs set in dusty, sparse scrubland. Today, about 200 people



The irony in Somalia is that relief efforts have brought in grains to certain areas while people other regions in the famine-hit country are eating grass to survive.

are left, Mr. Aden said.

Mr. Muktar said about 1,000 people from several villages in the area died in the fighting.

"Because of the famine, most people passed away and some of them disappeared," said Sheikh Birkat Hussein Aden, 80, the village's Muslim leader.

"We have been eating grass for two months," Mr. Muktar said. "Before then we had been cooking animal skins. But there are no skins left."

Mr. Aden produced a basket from his hut, filled with pieces of a grass called khabla, which had been gathered earlier in the day. He emptied it on a skin mat. That was dinner for him, his wife and seven children.

The grass is first boiled in water, said Hawa Yusuf Maalin,

50, a mother of six. "When it gets cold, you squeeze it to dry the water out and then you eat it."

Sheikh Aden said the village needs food, seeds, medicine and farm tools.

"We trust our God and we shall beg our God to help us, and to bring rain and seeds so that we can plant," he said.

If he had money, Mr. Muktar said: "I would have gone some place nearby and bought seeds and planted everything there is to grow."

But now the tall, gaunt farmer looked at the fallow fields, wondering when there will be no more khabla — and what his family would eat then.

"We shall stay. God is something beyond our knowing. We put our faith in him."

Iraqi Kurds battle way towards PKK stronghold

HAKURK VALLEY (R) — Iraqi Kurds fought their way towards the main stronghold of Turkish separatist Kurds in northern Iraq Monday but met stiff resistance.

Kurdish Peshmerga guerrilla commanders said they had changed plans to storm one ridge held by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) after Peshmerga attackers failed to advance.

PKK fighters held off a force of about 100 Peshmergas who climbed towards their positions overnight.

There were no casualties, but one PKK man was killed and one Peshmerga was wounded in separate clashes Sunday and Monday.

"Now we are planning to bypass Chaymour (Red Mountain)," Mamosta Bakir, a Peshmerga commander, told reporters. "Once we control the other heights, we will be able to drive through the Hakurk Valley and Chaymour will fall by itself."

Iraqi Kurds launched an offensive last week to expel the PKK from mountains all along the Turkish frontier to stop them raiding across the border and to stabilise the region so that Iraqi Kurdish refugees can return to their villages.

About 1,500 Peshmergas are taking part in the assault on the PKK's main bases in the Hakurk Valley, hemmed in by a wall of peaks behind which lie Turkey to the north and Iran to the east.

Mr. Bakir said it would be at least two or three days before the Peshmerga reached the village of Doustan at the head of the valley to cut the PKK's main supply line from Iraq.

Sporadic machinegun fire echoed through the spectacular mountains of this remote corner of Iraq but the Peshmerga chiefs said they expected no serious fighting until nightfall.

The overall Peshmerga commander in the region, Mustafa Chwarash, said the Iraqi Kurds wanted to minimise casualties on both sides and still win.

PKK would leave without a fight.

"If they are smart, they shouldn't fight," he said. "We are ready to take them to any part

our country where they can conduct a political struggle. But they must leave here."

Loss of its bases in northern Iraq would deal a serious blow to the PKK, whose eight-year-old struggle for an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey has cost over 5,000 lives.

The PKK has never managed to hold territory inside Turkey and may now find it hard to deploy hundreds of guerrillas for large-scale assaults on Turkish army posts as it has this year.

Turkey, intensifying its own military drive against the PKK, has been pressing Syria and Iran to deny the PKK sanctuary.

Aid mission

A Western aid mission travelled to northern Iraq to assess emergency needs for Iraqi Kurds before winter, a Turkish government official said Monday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the team of Turkish, U.S. and European Community (EC) representatives crossed into northern Iraq from Turkey Friday for an eight-to-10-day mission.

There were four Turks, including two from the Turkish Red Crescent organisation, the official added.

The official said the team would also discuss ways to transport and deliver the aid, probably by truck.

The EC office in Ankara refused to provide any details about the mission. The U.S. embassy was closed because of a U.S. national holiday.

The United Nations has drafted plans to ship humanitarian aid to the Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq last month.

The issue also gained importance since the United Nations scaled down its relief operations and reduced its international staff after a Baghdad-obtained mandate expired on July 1.

Turkish officials said the Iraqi Kurds were reportedly in need of food, fuel and medicine worth \$80 million.

U.N. team investigates killings in Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — A U.N. team spent a third day in Kenya Monday investigating the killing of three relief workers and a journalist in southern Sudan two weeks ago.

The seven members of the board of inquiry, led by Abdou Cisse, met pathologists who performed the post-mortem.

They also interviewed representatives of Norwegian aid agencies and New Sudan Council of Churches.

The team was due to fly into southern Sudan, where nine years of civil war has led to widespread food shortages and displaced hundreds of thousands of people, to meet both factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), including mainstream leader Colonel John Garang, Tuesday.

The pathologists said in a report that two of the four were shot in the head with one bullet fired at close range. The others were shot in the back, perhaps while trying to escape.

The people killed were Mynt Maung of Burma, who worked for the U.N. Children's Fund, Kenyan driver Francis Ngure, Filipino nurse Wilma Gomez of Internews and Norwegian journalist Helge Haugen.

"The probe team wants to find out who is responsible for the ghastly act," a senior U.N. official told Reuters.

Soon after arrival in the Kenyan capital Nairobi Saturday, the investigators saw representatives of two dozen relief agencies which were meeting to discuss the future of mercy work in rebel areas in southern Sudan.

The agencies suspended their work in the eastern Equatoria region after the killings.

Francis Mwanga of the World Food Programme said the U.N. withdrawal had hit about 100,000 starving people in eastern Equatoria and relief agencies had discussed at the weekend how to get food to the region.

Sudan says meat being sold to Iraq purely to make money

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan Monday protested U.S. criticism of its decision to sell meat to Iraq, which it said was necessary to earn money for importing medicines and other commodities.

A Foreign Ministry statement said "some foreign circles" have exploited the beef exports to "incite international opinion against the Sudanese government, attempting to infringe on our independent policies."

A private Islamic company, Al Rawassay, obtained permission from the United Nations to fly in a reported 20,000 tonnes of meat.

The U.N. Security Council allows shipments of food and medicine into Iraq despite an embargo in force since Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

But an Al Rawassay spokesman said so far beef has been flown only to Jordan, from where it is transported overland to Iraq. The spokesman did not specify how much was involved or when direct flight to Iraq will begin.

Monday's Foreign Ministry criticism did not specify the United States, but Washington obviously was the target.

Citing severe food shortages in Sudan, the U.S. State Department last Tuesday urged the Khartoum government to reassess the decision. "We think the government of Sudan should reconsider its transaction in light of the needs of its own people," department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Sudan is among the world's poorest countries, where hundreds of thousands of people have died from famine caused by drought and nine-year-old civil war. But Khartoum has announced sending relief food to similarly afflicted neighbouring countries like Somalia.

Sudan's food shortage is particularly acute in the south. United Nations figures say 3.7 million people, mostly non-Muslims, are thought to be at risk there.

As well as complaining of interference in its internal affairs, the Foreign Ministry statement defended the meat sales.

"Sudan is in need of earnings from the export of meat and other commodities to cover its import of medicines, petroleum and other commodities," the statement said.

Sudan has said it was "prepared to offer support to any needy country."

In imposing punitive sanctions on Iraq, the U.N. Security Council exempted food and medicine from an air and surface embargo.

U.S. relations with Sudan have been strained since Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir took power in a military coup in the summer of 1989. They took a turn for the worse last month when Sudan executed on treason charges a Sudanese employee of the U.S. Agency for International Development in the southern city of Juba.

Journalist held for criticising Kuwaiti minister

KUWAIT (AP) — Police have detained a newspaper columnist accused of insulting the information minister and criticising government's security policy pending the completion of an investigation into the case.

"This is the first confrontation between the government and the liberal forces in the parliament," Abdul Latif Al Dujai, a columnist at the independent newspaper Al Qabas, told the Associated Press by telephone from the police station after detention.

Kuwait elected its first post-war parliament last week. Thirty-five out of 50 seats were swept by opposition figures and their allies, including Jasssem Al Sager, the father of Mohammed Ali Sager, the editor-in-chief of Al Qabas.

Facing the same accusation, Mohammed Ali Sager was released on bail of 2,000 dinars (\$7,000).

Mr. Dujai accused the government in articles he wrote during the past eight months of spreading rumours, and fostering insecurity and fears of a second Iraqi invasion.

He also attacked the government newspaper Al Fajr Al Jadid.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

'Iran seeks Kazakhstan nuclear arms'

WASHINGTON (R) — Iran has been secretly negotiating to buy nuclear warheads from the former Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan, and a deal may have already been struck, according to a report in the Washington Post Monday. Syndicated columnist Rowland Evans and Robert Novak cited "high U.S. officials who are aware of Iran's bid to Kazakhstan" as saying it may be impossible to prevent delivery of warheads if Tehran had in fact signed an agreement. "There is evidence that Iran planned this intensified activity and the spread of its revolutionary doctrine throughout the region to coincide with the U.S. election campaign, when President Bush would be preoccupied," they wrote. "The Tehran government feels it has nothing to fear from Washington and considers the 'Persian' Gulf its own pond, with Iraq out of the game." The report said the Bush administration was warned about the alleged nuclear deal last week by Mohammed Mohadesin, an exiled Iranian dissident leader. Mr. Mohadesin's Iraq-based organisation Mujahadeen-e-Khalq has consistently accused Tehran's ruling mullahs of pursuing a nuclear weapons capability to bolster their brand of Islamic fundamentalism. Mr. Evans and Mr. Novak said the group's sources in Tehran learned that Iran had signed the agreement with Kazakhstan and paid for the warheads, which Iran may want to fit to Chinese-made Silkworm missiles, but that delivery had not yet taken place. This report "matches U.S. intelligence reports received several weeks ago," the columnists said. Bush administration officials were not immediately available for comment.

U.N. soldier, woman wounded by shelling

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli-backed militiamen avenging a guerrilla attack shelled U.N.-controlled villages in South Lebanon, injuring a woman and a U.N. peacekeeper, police and U.N. officials said Monday. Timur Goksel, spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said a Lebanese soldier was wounded by shrapnel from the shelling on the village of Kafra Sunday afternoon. Guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah detonated a roadside bomb near the village of Beit Leef Sunday, wounding two irregulars of the Israeli-financed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. The assault touched off a shelling duel between the SLA and Hizbollah. Lebanese police said a woman was also wounded and seven houses were destroyed from the SLA shelling of six villages north of the "security zone." But Hizbollah gunmen fired more than 30 mortar rounds on SLA positions inside the Israeli-occupied enclave. No casualties were reported from the SLA side. Hizbollah claimed in a statement released in Beirut that the roadside bomb destroyed an armoured personnel carrier manned by SLA militiamen, killing all six occupants. Hizbollah leads a guerrilla warfare against Israel and its surrogate militia in South Lebanon. Sunday's attack came one week after the fundamentalist group attacked an SLA outpost on the northern edge of the "security zone," killing two militiamen. Israel carved out the 1,100-square kilometre zone in 1985.

Abu Nidal activist assassinated

SIDON (AP) — An activist of Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolutionary Council (FRC) was shot and killed by a lone gunman in this southern port city Monday, security sources said. One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the attacker shot Ahmad Antar, 35, a former FRC officer, with a silenced pistol at 7:10 a.m. (0510 GMT) as he was getting into his car. Mr. Antar was the 11th Palestinian to be assassinated in the latest spate of violence in a blood feud between the Fateh and the dissident FRC. The violence began June 8, when unidentified gunmen shot and killed Atef Beisio, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) security and intelligence chief, outside the Meridien-Montparnasse hotel in Paris. The two sides have accused each other of carrying out the murders for Israel's Mossad secret service. Mr. Arafat has been at loggerheads with Abu Nidal since he broke away from Fateh and formed his dissident faction in 1973.

Kuwait confirms U.S. tank chosen

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti defence ministry spokesman confirmed Monday that Kuwait had chosen the U.S. Abrams M1-A2 as the main battle tank for its army. In trials the Abrams had outpaced its rivals in firepower, mobility and technology, the spokesman said. "The Abrams was a better tank overall," he added. The official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) announced the choice Sunday, quoting Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah al Salem Al Sabah. But in London the British company Vickers, which produces the rival tank the Challenger, dismissed the report. A Vickers spokesman said: "The Kuwaitis, as far as we are aware, have not made any decision and the report is inaccurate speculation." The Kuwaiti spokesman declined to comment on the remarks by the Vickers spokesman. Western defence experts say the M1-A2, the latest model of the Abrams, is faster than the Challenger, while the Challenger uses less fuel and is safer for the crew because of the position of the ammunition. Challengers competed with the U.S. tanks in desert trials this summer for a contract expected to include more than 200 tanks and spare parts worth at least \$1 billion, they said. KUNA quoted Sheikh Ali as saying a committee of military experts had chosen the Abrams because it is "the most responsive to Kuwaiti army requirements." The minister said the Abrams, which topped Israel's huge arsenal of Soviet-designed tanks during last year's Gulf war, was shown during the war for the liberation of Kuwait. Sheikh Ali said contacts were under way with the U.S. government to facilitate the purchase of the M1-A2 tanks, which are made by General Dynamics Corporation. The Defence Ministry spokesman declined to say how many tanks Kuwait would buy or give the expected value of the deal. "It depends on the negotiation — price and availability," he said.

Blast wounds two children in S. Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Two children were wounded when a bomb exploded in the toilet of a crowded cinema in the South Lebanon city of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut Sunday, security sources said. It was not known who was behind the attack. Muslim militants were believed behind a wave of bombings last year targeting cinemas and liquor stores in Sidon.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	TIME	PROGRAMME
18:00	Les Aventures de Joe	
18:06	Michael Valliant	
18:30	La Famille Ramond	
19:00	News in French	
19:15	Documentary	
19:30	News in Hebrew	
20:00	News in Arabic	
20:30	Empty Nest	
21:00	News in Hindi	
21:30	News in English	
22:00	Documentary	
22:30	Feature Film: "When the Lion Roars"	

PRAYER TIMES

TIME	PRAYER
06:15	Fajr
05:52	(Sunan) Duha
11:22	Dhuhr
14:29	Asr
17:12	Maghrib
18:29	Isha

CHURCHES

CHURCH	TEL.
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish,	Tel. 81040
Assembly of God Church, Tel.	63275
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62450	
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	63740

CHURCH	TEL.
De la Salle Church Tel. 66177	
Terraviva Church Tel. 62236	
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	62341
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.	62341
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.	77131
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.	77201
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel.	65326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.	81295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 62364, 65432	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
Church of the Redeemer Tel. 63826	

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and windy with light and variable, changing at times to northerly moderate to strong. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Yesterday's high temperature: Am-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

DATE	TEMPERATURE
Mon 13, Aug 34, Humidity readings: Amman 11 per cent, Aug 34 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NUMBER	NUMBER

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharif Zeid urges implementation of government projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has urged government departments to speed up the implementation of projects included within their 1992 fiscal budget. In a circular issued Monday, the prime minister said that some departments were slowly executing such projects despite the allocation of the required funds for them in the current year's budget. The circular stressed that these projects were needed in the course of the Kingdom's implementation of economic reforms.

Greek official due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Under-secretary of the Greek Foreign Ministry will arrive in Amman Thursday to convey a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Greek President Konstantinos Karamanlis. During three-day stay here, the Greek official, who will be accompanied by an official delegation, will hold talks with Jordanian officials on Jordanian-Greek relations.

Sboul receives Japanese envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Jawdat Al Sboul Monday received in his office Japanese ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty. The ambassador commended relations between Jordan and Japan.

Arabiyat meets speaker of Iraqi National Assembly

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat Monday held talks with speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Saadi Mahdi Saleh on the current situation in the Arab and international arenas. Dr. Arabiyat and Mr. Saleh also discussed bilateral relations between Jordan and Iraq and ways of enhancing them, namely in parliamentary fields. The meeting was attended by several Lower House of Parliament members, the delegation accompanying Mr. Saleh and Iraq's ambassador in Amman.

Australian delegation starts visit to the Kingdom

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seven-member delegation from the Australian Parliament arrived in Amman Monday on a week-long visit to Jordan. The delegation, led by Andrew Charles Theophanous, will discuss Jordanian-Australian relations and the Middle East peace process.

Irsheid visits refugee camps

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry Adel Irsheid Monday made inspection tours of refugee camps of Al Sukhneh, Zarqa and Hittin. He met with local officials and camp residents and listened to their requests for improving conditions at the camp.

Arab medical industry to hold meeting in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A workshop for engineers and technicians involved in the production of medicine and medical equipment in the Arab World will open in Amman Thursday. At least 30 technicians and experts from Jordan and a number of Arab countries will be involved in the meeting, according to Nizar Jardaheh, president of the Federation of Producers of Medicines and Medical Requirements, which is organising the workshop.

Commission to begin renovation of Prophet Shueib shrine

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Commission entrusted with restoring and renovating the shrines built at the burial places of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad Monday made an inspection visit to shrine of Shueib Prophet in the Jordan Valley. The committee members decided that work on renovating and enlarging the site should start immediately.



QUEEN NOOR HONOURS TOP FEMALE STUDENTS

Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday attended a celebration organised by the Jordan University for Women marking the safe return of His Majesty King Hussein and the start of the new academic year. The Queen toured the university's facilities and took part in various festivities with students and faculty members. The celebrations included an exhibition of traditional handicrafts and student performances of folk music and poetry. The Queen distributed certificates of merit to a group of students who had attained distinction in their studies. The ceremony was also attended by Minister of Culture Mahmood Al Samra and University President Amin Mahmoud. Queen Noor last year formally opened the university, which offers female students from 18 Arab and six foreign countries bachelor degrees in the arts and sciences.

Specialists to discuss child care

AMMAN (Petra) — Gynaecologists, obstetricians, and specialists in related fields from Arab and three foreign countries are gathering in Amman Wednesday to attend a general conference on obstetrics and gynaecology under the banner: "Towards Safe Motherhood and Childhood."

According to the Jordanian Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists which is organising the meeting, 400 participants from Arab countries, the United States, Britain and Ireland will review 40 working papers which deal with modern trends in the field, and a host of related topics such as cancer affecting women, female menopause, and pregnancy complications.

Poor receive alms

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee, set up following His Majesty King Hussein's recovery, said Monday that it has collected a total of JD 180,000 which has been distributed to the poor and needy.

The announcement was made by minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi who said that Jordanian private citizens and organisations made contributions in celebration of the King's good health following surgery in America.

King Hussein in a message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan requested that such gifts should be diverted to charity.

Prince Hassan entrusted Minister Tamimi to head a committee that would take charge of the collection of donations and distribute to the needy.

Speaking at a committee meeting Monday, the minister said that the dispersion of funds in the form of food and money in various governorates is continuing.

Cancer centre urges fulfilment of pledges

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's municipal councils donated JD 250,000 towards the construction and operation of the projected Al Amal Cancer Centre.

The announcement was made Monday by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat.

Jordanians last week collected JD 4 million to help finance the JD 14-million cancer centre project through a series of activities which, among other things, included a sponsored march, a door-to-door collection carried out by up to 22,000 students, and a spectacular one day television telethon in which the organisers received telephone calls from various citizens in Jordan and abroad pledging cash for the project.

However, not all those who offered contributions on television have paid-up.

Three local Arabic dailies Monday carried "an important announcement" by the Higher National Committee, who organised the campaign, urging the donors to come forward and offer their contributions to the General Union of Voluntary Services (GUVS) offices in Amman. The notice gave four telephone numbers for people who pledged support to ring.

CPF opens second branch in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) is establishing a new branch in Al Barha town in Irbid governorate. The centre, which is being built on a 900-square metre piece of land donated by Irbid Municipality, will be the foundation's second branch in Irbid. The first centre serves about 1500 children annually.

CPF Director General Fakhr Bilbeisi Sunday laid the foundation stone for the JD50,000 project. Construction work is expected to be completed in four months and the centre should start offering its services to children suffering from cerebral palsy in February 1993.

Mr. Bilbeisi said the CPF aims to reduce cerebral palsy cases in Jordan from 5 in 1,000 to 1 in 1,000 births. He said early detection and treatment of the disease prevent disabilities from developing into handicaps.

King receives Russian minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received at the Royal Court Russian Minister of Foreign External Economic Relations Peter Avin, who is the first Russian Minister to visit Jordan since the collapse of the USSR.

Mr. Avin congratulated the King on the success of his operation and discussed Russian-Jordanian economic relations in the presence of Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour.

Mr. Avin, accompanied by a Russian economic delegation, arrived in Amman Monday on a two-day visit for economic talks with government officials and private sector businessmen. On his arrival, he also said that he would discuss Jordan's debts to the former Soviet Union.

The Russian minister said that the balance of trade is slightly in favour of Russia but he hoped that the two countries will increase the volume of exchanged national products.

Last month, Jordan held its first industrial fair in Moscow in which it displayed products manufactured by 334 local firms.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets Russia's Minister of Foreign External Economic Relations Peter Avin (Petra photo)

The fair was organised in cooperation with the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCC) at the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

A team representing businesses taking part said that the fair was successful and Dr. Ensour said that the fair was a good opportunity for Jordanian businesses to open new markets.

Jordan has, in the past two years, discussed with Moscow the rescheduling of its debts, which are mainly military. Government officials have not however revealed the actual amount owed.

Farmers urged to return to roots

By Lancy Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A representative of a German research foundation said that Jordan is "an environmentally vulnerable country" and warned that pesticide use, increased traffic and soil erosion threaten national development.

"Jordan does not suffer heavily under environmental pollution but traffic increases... and high population growth are threatening the stability of development in Jordan," Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) Representative Walter Rudel said Monday, opening a one-day seminar on organic farming.

Mr. Rudel, tolling environment's bells of doom, condemned the use of pesticides, chemical fertilizers and heavy farm machinery worldwide. Referring to the devastation of farmland from America to Africa, he mapped out the dangers facing Jordanian farmers who continue to use man-made substances.

Organic farming promotes alternative methods of agriculture, including picking and watering crops manually, and using natural fertilisers from animal faeces to algae. Many methods are based on agricultural techniques that are more than 1,000 years old.

According to agriculturalists and academics, organic farming can increase output by 70 per cent and cut production costs by at least 50 per cent.

But, farmers continue to depend on "industrialised" agriculture, which supplies the bulk of food for the world's 5.5 billion people.

Jordan alone imported about 1,500 tonnes of pesticides in 1991, costing millions of dollars, according to Youssef Al Shuraiki, head of the Ministry of Agriculture, Pest Analysis Laboratory.

But pesticides do not always guarantee increased yields.

According to Mr. Rudel, from 1970 to 1990 the use of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides increased 20 fold; by 1989, 505 insect species had developed a resistance to one or more of these pesticides.

The inadequacy of pesticides was partly proven in the early seventies when 15 per cent of the United States' wheat crop and 25 per cent of its maize crop were destroyed by resilient insects.

Despite pesticides, fertilizers and new technology, Mr. Rudel said, world grain production is declining. Wheat reserves are now down to about 290 million tonnes, enough to feed the world for 30 days. And, while the world population is increasing 1.8 per cent a year, agricultural production is declining by one per cent.

Pesticides can also accumulate on fruits and vegetables, harming consumers health.

It was pointed out that last year, Jordan Valley farmers used crop dusters to spray their chemicals, with many of the planes missing their target — they sprayed produce which was to be picked in a few days.

Dr. Shuraiki agrees pesticides can be dangerous but only if used improperly. Though he supports organic fertilizers, he said they must be introduced in phases for farmers to use them effectively.

Other lectures were by University of Jordan and University of Science and Technology professors. Topics ranged from alternative methods of agriculture to soil protection to fertilising.

"Pesticides are used indiscriminately in Jordan," said Tawfiq Mustafa, associate professor at the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan.

Summarising his speech "Integrated Pest Management — Stone Fruit," Dr. Mustafa recommended alternative pest control such as blowing, changing planting times, and collecting pests by hand.

Waiting for Godot — 40 years and counting

By S'ameh Ne'mat
Special to the Jordan Times

Waiting for Godot? Who is not? if you are, and certainly we are all waiting, each for his or her own saviour, then join the crowd at the Nabil Mashini Theatre at Luweibdeh to see how producer/director Sawzan Darwazah treats Samuel Beckett's masterpiece, "On Attendant Godot" (Waiting for Godot).

Whether Beckett himself, Darwazah or her colleagues are able to interpret our eternal waiting is for every viewer to decide on his or her own. Whether Godot or any other saviour is coming or not is a constant question, but one thing is certain, death is inescapable. It is the only thing we are certain will come. So far it has not failed us.

But waiting for death or for your saviour does not necessarily have to be all miserable. This is perhaps the essence of this tragedy-comedy: How hope for a saviour sustains people until death strikes. It is at the heart of the question of all religions which tell us there is something to wait for, something that is worthwhile waiting for but without us knowing the date or what exactly it is.

Estragon: You're sure it was this evening?

Vladimir: What?

Estragon: That we were to wait.

Vladimir: He said Saturday, I think.

Estragon: You think.

Vladimir: I must have made a note of it.

Estragon: But what Saturday?



Sawzan Darwazah: an attempt on the absurd

And is it Saturday? Is it not rather Sunday? or Monday? or Friday?

Vladimir: It's not possible!

Estragon: Or Thursday?

Vladimir: What'll we do?

Estragon: If he came yesterday and we weren't here you may be sure he won't come again today.

Vladimir: But you say we were here yesterday.

Estragon: I may be mistaken.

Vladimir: Let's stop talking for a minute, do

hardly tries to provide an answer. He presents us with an edited version of life, a drama through which we sit being nagged by the vague memories of having read the reviews (of our own lives).

The dialogue between Estragon and Vladimir, when understood, can cause a depression to the point where the audience may feel (after the play) that they must go and lie down and hope they will feel better in the morning. It is the kind of depression caused by Vladimir and Estragon's waiting, which reminds the audience of the things they have exhaustingly been waiting for for a long time. It is a pleasurable kind of depression, the kind that makes you feel good to know that others are even more bored and depressed than you are. A snifter, almost sadistic feeling that exists within everyone of us, making us realise how strong is the will to live, to carry on, at least, for the mere fact that there is no other choice, or almost, until Godot makes his/her appearance.

Ms. Darwazah and her colleagues; Nasir Omar (Vladimir), Muhtaseb Aref (Estragon); and Abdul Kamel Khalaleh (Pozzo) have been training for months for more than three hours, every night at the 100-seat theatre that belongs to the Ministry of Culture.

It is interesting to see how very little is lost in the Arabic adaptation of the play.

Waiting for Godot opens at the Mashini Theatre at 7:30 on Thursday. Don't wait to be ushered in, everyone is waiting.

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by artist Nadeem at the French Cultural Centre.

★ National Industries exhibition which includes electric appliances, carpets, food supplies, chemical detergents, clothes, paints and other items at Al Hassan Sports Stadium in Irbid.

★ Art exhibition by Ahmed Nawash at Alla Art Gallery.

Jordan smells 'Lou lou'

AMMAN — A press gathering was held at the Amman Marriott Hotel last week to introduce the famous "Lou lou" scent from Cacharel to the Jordanian markets.

The meeting was organised by the Ibrahim and Khaled Abu Shaqra Trading Company, "the gifts corner," which has branches on Jabal Hussein and Umm Uthaina districts, and is one of the leading perfume marketers in the world.

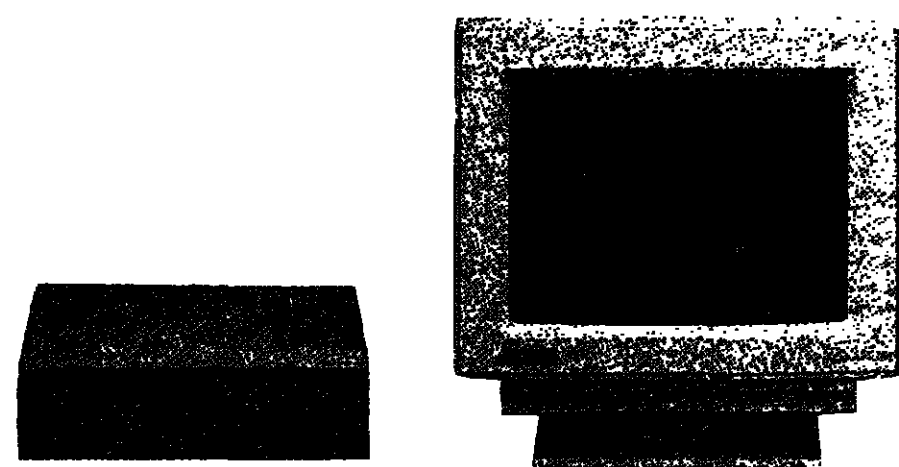


BRITONS TO ARRIVE IN THOUSANDS: A group of 180 tourists from Britain arrived in Amman Sunday for a week-long visit during which they will tour archaeological sites and tourist attractions. The group, which arrived on board a Royal Jordanian (RJ) Airbus, constitute the first of an estimated 7,000 British tourists who will arrive at the rate of one flight a week between October 1992 and May 1993, according to RJ officials. In a separate development, RJ has decided to operate weekly flights from Amman to Luxor in southern Egypt.



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Participation is a must

IN THE past week the country witnessed a number of events that are of great potential significance to our citizens. First there was the campaign to generate funds for a cancer centre which culminated in pledges of several million dinars to finish to the project. Also there was a seminar on motor vehicles, their uses and, more importantly perhaps, their misuses. Then there was another seminar, this time on agriculture, and the effects of weeds, fertilizers and pesticides on agricultural products. And last, but not least, a debate on organic agriculture as an alternative to chemical agriculture took place yesterday to highlight the importance of the topic to our society.

All of these and other activities highlight concern by Jordanians over matters that directly affect their health. And all point to a long suppressed fact that the environment in Jordan has been deteriorating, mainly through the abuse of nature by different methods.

The basic facts are that Jordan is a small country with limited resources, that agricultural land is very limited, that water is very scarce, that industry and industrial waste are polluting water resources and that our vegetables and fruits are at best not as good and clean for human consumption as they used to be only a few years ago.

These, coupled with another fact, that Jordanians are multiplying at a relatively high rate, should prompt us to think more seriously about both the present and future.

With the mixture of constantly increasing population, dwindling water resources, and alarming pollution, the country may soon find itself grappling with crises beyond its control. With this in mind, it is imperative that Jordanians should exert maximum effort to study and analyse these problems and come up with a comprehensive plan to tackle them. Confronting the challenge cannot and should not be done in isolation from other important factors like politics, economics, freedom and democracy, administrative reforms, decentralisation, and education.

But the effort certainly requires the participation of every individual, especially our young generations at colleges and universities. The media — television, radio and press — should also be at the front probing, examining, researching and informing on the dangers at hand and the challenges that face us all.

Community and civic leaders, as well as political parties and activists should likewise use whatever window on people is available to take part in the campaign. We cannot simply sit back and expect the government to do everything for us. Although the indirect intervention of His Majesty the King and the direct intervention of the prime minister in the Amal cancer centre campaign was crucial for its success, that particular case essentially shows the degree to which Jordanians have been apathetic towards human and national causes. There is no denial of the importance of the role of the state and the government in deciding the future of the country — any country. But, after all, the future belongs to the people and their future generations, and it is they who should be actively involved in shaping it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Monday said the Arabs are justified to be on their guard all the time and to beware Israel's honey-coated statements because there is nothing in what the Zionists say or do that can reflect a change in their true barbaric character. With every day that passes by, the Arabs become more and more convinced that the Israelis are determined to pursue their policy of retaining the occupied Arab lands and subjecting the Palestinians to barbaric treatment, said the daily. Far from reducing the level of repression practised under the Likud government, the labour government, led by Yitzhak Rabin, is escalating it, and the present brutal behaviour on the part of the Israeli forces in the occupied lands stands out as the best evidence of this fact, the paper continued. Under the Labour government, more atrocities are being committed and more killings of Palestinian people and more detentions are being practiced, said the paper. Not only are the hunger strikers' demands of better treatment in Israeli jails ignored, the Israeli troops have also been using brutal force against the Arab people demonstrating in solidarity with the detainees. The inhuman treatment of the Palestinian inmates, reminds the world of the horror of the Nazi concentration camps, while the mistreatment of the thousands of people supporting the detainees can only be described as an act of terrorism, said the paper. Therefore, added the paper, one should not allow himself to be deceived by Israeli leaders' false statements about their desire to live in peace and security with the Arab countries.

A COLUMNIST IN *Al-Dustour* expressed his admiration at the all-out support by the Jordanian people for the national campaign to raise funds for the Jordanian Cancer Centre. The contributions and the massive desire to come to the help of the cancer patients can only be described as a source of pride for the Jordanian people, disease with all their might and carry out a humanitarian service to the sick, said Mohammad Daoud. While going ahead with this vital project by donating millions of dinars, the Jordanians ought to turn their attention to another form of "cancer" that of unemployment, which has been growing out of proportion in the country, said the writer. Those Jordanians who were quick to come up with JD4 million for fighting cancer can definitely offer generous contributions to save the lives of many starving and needy families through initiating income-generating projects for them, called the writer. It is hoped that the generous people of Jordan will turn their attention towards implementing thousands of small and medium-size projects that can ensure income for the needy people and can secure more revenues for the country through exports, the writer said. He said that the government would not spare any efforts in laying the infrastructure for such projects, but the private sector has to take the first step in this regard. He said the unemployment is as sinister as cancer and has to be stopped by all possible means.

The View from Fourth Circle

Surprise! Dignity triumphs in Kuwait. Why surprise?

The victory of the combined opposition forces in last week's parliamentary elections in Kuwait will probably be recorded by future historians as one of the pivotal moments of modern Arab history — a moment when the quest for national dignity and stability spread from the poor northern Arab states to the rich southern Arab states. It strikes me as an extraordinarily important development that has powerful implications for the rest of the Gulf, and for the entire Arab World. No wonder, therefore, that the Western media have largely ignored the full implications of the news from Kuwait. No wonder, for example, that the United States Department of Commerce last week issued a report noting that American companies had achieved "a roaring success" in securing around four billion dollars worth of reconstruction contracts in Kuwait since the end of the Gulf war.

Kuwait is as much a pointer to the Arab future as it is a smoldering symbol of its past. Kuwaitis who demanded democracy before August 1990 are now joined by many more of their countrymen and women who seek serious political change. A sign of the deep change coming in Kuwait was the comment in April 1991 by Major-General Mohammad Badr, a prominent senior Kuwaiti army general who stayed in Kuwait to resist the Iraqi occupation. He said that most of the Kuwaiti men and women who fought the Iraqis were young people who wanted political change, "(people) whom we cannot control like we control ourselves."

Noting that the majority of these young people had ignored orders to disarm after the war, he said: "We are against violence... but we want freedom and democracy like any other people in the world."

The Arab World had changed dramatically since the 1950s: instead of seizing political power for the private pleasures of their own friends and cousins, Arab senior army officers in the 1990s were demanding democracy for their people. Another sign of the future was the formation of the Kuwaiti Democratic Forum, the umbrella organisation of secular opposition groups seeking greater democracy and a loosening of the grip of power by the ruling Sabah family. They called for the appointment of a prime minister from outside the ruling family, which would break a tradition that has been observed throughout Kuwait's three decades of independence.

The challenge to the old system has started to materialise in several sectors that were also at the cutting edge of social and political change in the West in the 1960s, including environmental and women's movements. Equally important is the composition of a group of prominent Kuwaitis who sent the Emir a long manifesto in early 1991 on the future of their country, demanding elections, an end to favouritism and influence-peddling, freedom of speech and the press, an independent judiciary, and a government of national unity not dominated by the Sabah family. The signatories included former parliamentarians and ministers, judges, lawyers, opposition leaders, merchants and businessmen, professionals, and Islamic leaders, comprising the six main opposition groups in the country (pan-Arabists, leftists, Sunni Muslims, Shiite Muslims, independents, and Western-leaning moderates). Demands since then have grown to include full disclosure of government finances, total freedom of the press, separating the posts of prime minister and crown prince, repeal of laws against labour unions and political parties, voting rights to be extended to include naturalised Kuwaitis and their offspring and, with the exception of some Islamic groups, voting rights for women.

With the emergence of this broad democratic opposition, the Arab symbolism of Kuwait has been fulfilled, and its transition from modern Arab paradox to harbinger of the Arab future is complete: the confluence of secular leftists, Arab nationalists, non-ideological moderates, and the Islamic fundamentalist opposition reflects the political dynamic that stands the best chance of sweeping away or checking the excesses of the old power elites of the Middle East. In the 1950s and 1960s such broad coalitions would have taken to the streets to demonstrate against Israel or its Western backers. In the late 1980s and early

1990s they challenged their own governments, taunted their own leaders and ruling elites. The Arab reawakening, born in the urban poverty and authoritarianism of northern tier Arab capitals, has spread to the oil-rich Gulf states. Reaching Kuwait, the circle of Arab humiliation, anger, and rebirth is nearly complete. The search for a new and better Arab order has begun in earnest, in both poor and rich Arab countries.

Why was the West so surprised by the victory of the opposition groups in Kuwait? Did the West think that all was well in Kuwait because the flow of Arab oil and money to the West continues uninterrupted? Most of us around here who look to the Gulf as an integral human component of Arab national endeavour — contrary to the British/American view of the Gulf as oil pump, cash cow, or strategic real estate devoid of human beings — knew that all was not well in the Gulf. I wrote in an opinion article in the New York Times in August 1991 — over a year ago — that "when their anger abates, Kuwaitis will spearhead the drive for democracy and for accountability and responsible governments in the Gulf."

There was nothing surprising about the victory of the opposition in Kuwait. It was very predictable to those who dared to look beneath the surface, to contemplate matters deeper than money. It was appropriate that the eyes of the Arabs and of the rest of the world should have focused so intensely on Kuwait during the first three years of the 1990s, for Kuwait is an apt microcosm of the

tion of the provisions of the 1962 constitution.

Such Kuwaitis represent an unprecedented phenomenon in the Arab World, perhaps even in the Third World as a whole: rich, comfortable, well-connected stalwarts of the establishment who seek democratic reform, who insist on being treated like adult human beings, who take seriously the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They are pillars of the community, respected professional and business leaders from top merchant families. They are motivated by different impulses — Islamic, pan-Arab, technocratic pragmatism, Kuwaiti survival — but seek similar goals.

All are simply acting like normal human beings. Their basic human needs satisfied — food, shelter, medical care, jobs — they seek life's higher endeavours. With their garages full of imported cars, their bellies full of imported food, their homes and businesses full of foreign workers, and their bank accounts full of foreign money, they demand something more meaningful and more enduring: they seek dignity along with their dinars, and more identity to complement their wealth. For them, too, like the poor who inhabit the northern tier of the Arab World, realise that man does not live by bread alone. Kuwait's pro-democracy lobby represents the first major crack in the false facade that had characterised the Arab Gulf states since substantial oil wealth started accruing to them about half a century ago. It is a serious indicator that Kuwait's material and financial veneer hides a wellspring of political humanity and national authenticity waiting to assert itself.

This historic dynamic in Kuwait, like most other trends in the Middle East, was simply exacerbated and accelerated by the Gulf crisis, and rebounded with even greater intensity after the war. The suffering endured by all Kuwaitis during the brief occupation and attempted obliteration of their country compounded the anger and frustration felt by the pro-democracy movement before the Gulf crisis. Kuwaitis were imprisoned, tortured, kidnapped, and killed; they fought and resisted, fled their country, suffered forced exile, and experienced helplessness and dependence; they hid in their own homes, searched in vain for family members who disappeared, pleaded to the world and to the United Nations to save them, and lost all their material belongings; they saw their neighbourhoods go up in flame, and took up arms to liberate their country. Now, all Kuwaitis are angry, but for different reasons, and at different parties. Kuwait introduces a new actor never before seen in the region: rich Arabs who are angry because they endured a traumatic national and personal experience: the humiliating agony of occupation or exile.

They returned home to a devastated land. Along with the physical suffering they endured at the hands of the Iraqi occupation and the war unleashed by the coalition, the Kuwaiti people also suffered grievous humiliation by being widely portrayed in the international press as arrogant, medieval spendthrifts and ingrates, incapable of dealing with their own problems, fearful of democratic change, clinging to the conveniences that money can buy, the pleasures of the flesh, and the memories of the past. Such suffering is not endured without cost, and the cost will be paid by the oligarchic interests that have ruled Kuwait since its creation. The sentiment was neatly summed up in the week immediately after the war ended by a prominent Kuwaiti bank chairman, Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Sultan, who remained in Kuwait throughout the occupation and war, and said afterwards: "Those of us who stayed are not willing to put up with anything less than democracy. We have suffered. We have seen terror. We are not afraid."

That lack of fear, coupled with the basic sensibility and instinctive humanity and dignity of the Kuwaiti people, now asserts itself in electoral form. The cash-induced distortions and fears of the last several decades are playing themselves out. People in Kuwait have started to think clearly and to act rationally, once again, and the rest of the Arabian Peninsula will follow suit in the years to come. Watch.

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Israel's autonomy proposal — consolidating the status quo

Why the Palestinians are justified in dismissing Israel's 'offer' of 'autonomy'

By Abdul Jawad Saleh

The Western powers and the news media are determined to perceive and sell Yitzhak Rabin as the "man of peace." Washington's red carpet was rolled out for Mr. Rabin and he was granted \$4 billion as an advance on the \$10 billion loan guarantees, with no conditions linked to a restructuring of the Israeli economy or a freezing of the settlements. With a well-orchestrated public relations campaign and some cosmetic measures, Mr. Rabin won the loan guarantees and, exploiting the inextinguishable stand of his predecessor, created the illusion in the West that Israel is now serious about peace.

The reality is of course very different. Israel's delegation is the same one sent by Mr. Shamir. Mr. Rabin's disingenuous distinction between "political" and "security" settlements (which alone account for about 80 per cent of the occupied territories) has won him the right to continue expropriating Palestinian land and building settlements. The content of the "new" Israeli proposals is virtually the same as Mr. Shamir's with the exception of the deletion of provocative terms. Israel's autonomy plan offers nothing more than the ratifying and legitimising of a permanent state of occupation.

What Mr. Rabin is proposing is to maintain a status quo which, due to Mr. Shamir's obduracy was proving impossible to maintain without the prospect of Israel suffering the condemnation, and the consequent political and economic pressures, of the international community. It seems that Mr. Rabin won his first round of public relations against the Palestinians and the Arabs in general. Now, in restricting themselves to the strategy of confrontation, the Palestinians and the Arab states have failed to revitalise their approach in confronting Mr. Rabin's tactics. Hopefully this failure will not extend to the talks themselves.

The failure was apparent when the news media came out with "breath-taking" announcements: Israel has proposed to the Palestinians the administration of various sectors, such as health, agriculture and education. Responding to these announcements, the Palestinian delegation stressed the need for an "expanded" council, and stressed that the Israeli proposals are "incompatible" with the Camp David accords. But who cares about an expanded council? The Palestinians missed the real target: Israel's attempt to legitimise permanent occupation. Mr. Rabin's specious offer should have been attacked. The Palestinians are already administering these sectors under Israeli officers. The only difference would be that the Israeli authorities, whose main role, as decision-makers, has been curtailment of these sectors, would be saved from the moral burden and the ramifications of implementation.

The Palestinians should also have focused on the fact that Mr. Rabin is now trying to implement the idea of "Greater Israel," which was structure by the imposition of the extraterritorial legislation which the Likud, under Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon, implemented. Begin and Mr. Sharon's plan to absorb the occupied territories manifested itself in the creation of the Israeli Civil Administration by Military Order 974, of 1981, which was designed to circumvent the Camp David negotiations and impose a de facto annexation of the occupied territories. This order extended Israeli law to the Jewish settlements, imposed a racial dual-system of government, and changed the constitutional status of the occupied territories. In addition, military order 974 imposed exclusive Jewish control over regional planning councils, allowing for the allocation of all the land exclusively to Jews.

The absence of a genuine desire

for peace on behalf of the Israeli government is clearly seen in light of some of the military orders which define the limits of Israel's autonomy plan, which would only serve to perpetuate the status quo:

— Military Order 1015 prohibits the plantation of one fruit-bearing tree without prior approval of the military governor. The order was amended by another order, No. 1032, which was expanded to prohibit the planting of more than 200 eggplants or tomato plants without such permission. Is it conceivable that Palestinian authority over agriculture should implement this order and would not be able to legislate to change it?

— Military Order 854 gives the military authorities control over universities, to the extent that they can downgrade them to the status of secondary schools and interfere in every aspect of the educational process. Is it conceivable that a Palestinian authority over education should implement such an order? Or that the Palestinian authority should contemplate to serve independent institutions of higher education without being able to legislate new laws?

— The "administrative council" will be given the responsibility of refuse collecting (!!!) but not the right to select an appropriate tract of land where to dump the refuse. The Israeli military proposal restricts the right of such decision making in the hands of the Israeli military authority which is the source of authority. What kind of council is that cannot rule on such issues?

In Gaza the salinity rate of the water is 1,800 milligrams of salt/litre of water, compared to the World Health Organisation recommended average of 800 milligrams/litre. The result is that the water is not only undrinkable and unusable for crops, but constitutes a dire health hazard to young children in particular. A Palestinian authority

must be able to take decisions and implement policy on such issues. But in the Israeli proposal the overall sources of authority in the health sector, as in all service sectors, would remain with the occupation authorities. The Israeli proposal for a "transfer of power" in the field of health is meaningless, for the Palestinians already run government hospitals, clinics and administration, but are excluded from the decision-making process. Thus, this "transfer of power" is designed to put "the burden of responsibility over the decaying structure of government hospitals and clinics onto the shoulders of the Palestinians."

What the Palestinians need is the responsibility to make and implement decisions which affect the health of the population, which cannot be achieved without having control over decision-making on water consumption and usage, and being able to define land use for the provision of sewage systems and drilling for water. The administering of these vital services requires an authority "endowed with the powers to plan, license, and finance."

— There are numerous other military orders which, in order for a Palestinian council to operate in any meaningful manner, will have to be annulled. The Israeli Civil Administration is at the heart of Israeli hegemony over the occupied territories. The Israeli "right" to designate Palestinian property as "state land" for the exclusive use of Jews, undermines the basis of autonomy and indigenous administration. Moreover it is in contravention of the framework of negotiations which states that the "purpose of negotiations on transitional arrangements is to effect the peaceful and orderly transfer of authority... Palestinians need to achieve rapid control over political, economic, and other decisions that affect their lives and to adjust to a new situation in which Palestinians exercise au-

thority in the West Bank and Gaza."

The Israeli interlocutors, the sponsors, and the media should be reminded that these military orders on which the "Civil Administration" is based were condemned by Israeli lawyers, jurists, and justices in 1945, when some of them were imposed by the British Mandatory authority, as being "unparalleled in any civilised country."

The current Israeli conception of a Palestinian administrative council is a model "devoid of authority," which condemns the Palestinians to the status of a dominated community, entitled, at most, to municipal and religious autonomy. It will develop into the South African model of Bantustans, which will serve to provide Israeli industries with cheap Palestinian labour. After a time the dynamics of Israeli economic planning and policies of deprivation and dependency will lead to a "voluntary" transfer of the Palestinian population. If international circumstances will permit, or during any kind of upheaval in the region, the "problem" of the Palestinians will be solved by forceful mass expulsion.

The Palestinians have to change their public relations terms. Instead of calling for an "expanded" administrative council, they should demand the annulment of these orders, which currently the world is hardly even aware of, as a preliminary step towards attaining a council which will enact legislation to the benefit of the people.

If the Palestinians are refused a legislative council, with the power to enact its own laws, Israel will have to revive the Village Leagues, which were established by Military Order 752, of 1978, comprised of collaborators to implement the Israeli conception of autonomy. A council with the basis of administrative jurisdiction to legislate, is not a "blue

print for a state," and is not a matter of political independence, though it is the Palestinian human and political right, but of administrative necessity.

For a Palestinian council to have any credibility it must have the power to define land use. This is at the heart of the call for a freeze to settlement activity. If settlements continue and land continues to be expropriated, then the issue will have been pre-determined long before the interim period is near completion, and Palestinian rights will have been prejudiced beyond redemption.

The Palestinian leadership, whether the PLO or the inside, has made historical decisions. They accepted the unacceptable to share in the making of peace. The judgement will be left to history whether they were great statesmen or merely petit quinquies.

Now it is the turn of the new Israeli leadership, whether to be contained in the frame of child bone-breakers, killers of women, oppressors of a people, violators of the most sacred principle of freedoms, or makers of peace and history.

It needs to be made clear that Israel has decisions to make and questions to answer: Does it really want peace? Are they well aware of the changes in the international arena? And do they have an alternative to Israel as part of the region, replacing its conceived role as an outpost for Western colonisation? If the answer is "yes" to a comprehensive peace, then some hard political decisions have to be made within the Israeli political system. That the democratically elected representative of the Palestinian people, under whatever name the council is called, is the source of authority to the Palestinians, allowing them to run their own affairs. Only then peace will prevail.

إلى من لا يصدق

World effort required to stabilise climate

By Dr. Jaser K. Rabadi

THE historic Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was signed during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), is designed to defuse the expected global warming (increase in surface radiative temperature of the earth). Such warming is caused by the growing increase in the concentration of green house gases (GHGs) induced by industrial activities and logging of forests. The GHGs are carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), nitrous oxides and water vapour. Atmospheric GHGs act like a blanket around the earth, they emit infrared radiation downward keeping the earth warmer

than what it would otherwise be. As trees consume good portions of the atmospheric carbon dioxide for their photosynthesis processes, logging forests will eventually lead to the increase of this gas in the atmosphere.

Features of climate change include, but are not limited to, changes in sea level, weather patterns, rain fall and evaporation rates, agriculture, ecosystems, hydrology and water resources, human health and air quality, human settlement, energy and transportation.

The ultimate objective of the Convention is to achieve stabilisation of GHG concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference

with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner. Practically, this means that the parties to the Convention should cut down on the rate of emission of GHGs and preserve forests.

Of course, the Convention differentiates between developed and developing countries as far as responsibility, specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances are concerned. Nevertheless, it explicitly states that each party

shall adopt national policies and take corresponding measures to return to the 1990 levels of emission of carbon dioxide and other green house gases. Measures and policies can include any or all of the following actions:

- Slow down on the pace of industrial activity.
- Diversion towards new and innovative technology.
- Replacement of fossil fuel with renewable sources of energy.
- Impose taxes on fuel and do away with government subsidy.
- Provide efficient public transportation systems.
- Follow proper agricultural and forest management practices.

Governments should also initiate programmes and support activities related to climate change in order to:

- Adopt appropriate response strategies
- Promote education and public awareness.
- Establish systematic observation and monitoring networks.
- Publish, exchange and make available climate change data.
- Conduct fundamental research.
- Provide and maintain training of personnel.

The writer works for the Department of Meteorology in Marka.

Court hears wiretap evidence

(Continued from page 1)

— Tape number five was a conversation between Mr. Shbeilat and "Mohammed Zaghalil (Abu Gaidh)." The caller was apparently trying to convince Mr. Shbeilat to return to Parliament which the deputy had left in protest.

(The protest followed an altercation with spectators during a vote-of-confidence session on the government of Prime Minister Shaukat Zaidi. Mr. Shbeilat had withdrawn his confidence and when the cabinet did win the vote some spectators shouted nationalist slogans. The deputy objected to the Parliament building being used for raising slogans and then a heated exchange ensued. Mr. Shbeilat walked out in protest and stayed away from the House for several months.)

During the conversation, dated February 1992 according to the charge-sheet, Mr. Shbeilat sounded extremely angry and shouting over the phone that he did not want to "go back ... to a parliament of mother f...s and disasters."

"Shit on such a parliament," he said, assailing deputies for not taking a firm position.

(These comments, along with further criticism of Lower House members, are apparently the basis for one of the charges against Mr. Shbeilat — slandering Parliament members. Several deputies attending the court session sat expressionless as the tape was being played; so did Mr. Shbeilat.)

Ibrahim Bakr, Mr. Shbeilat's chief lawyer, earlier objected to introducing this taped conversation, saying that in a statement to the prosecution, Mr. Zaghalil had "categorically denied that this conversation took place." The court, however, overruled the objection.

— Tape numbers six, seven and eight were phone conversations, mostly between Sheikh Qarash and Mr. Chalabi, who is the former chairman of Petra Bank and now member of the Iraqi opposition movement.

The first conversation, dated a three-way exchange among the two accused deputies and the ex-banker, who has been sentenced in absentia to 22 years in prison and ordered to pay JD 48 million in fines.

During the conversations, there was no direct reference to any legal or illegal organisation and it was difficult to discern what exactly was being discussed or planned.

The tape continued a political discussion on the Gulf crisis and the Iraq-Iran war. Mr. Chalabi assailed Iraq President Saddam Hussein, describing him as "evil" and accused him of conspiring with the Americans and Jordan to invade Kuwait.

Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash disputed this assertion, but the latter agreed that Arab regimes were "all rotten." Mr. Chalabi and Mr. Shbeilat also disagreed over the Iranian role in the crisis. While the deputy supported the stand publicly adopted by Iranian supreme leader Ali Khamenei — who, at times, seemed to support Iraq during the crisis — the ex-banker said: "We disagree with Khamenei on this issue."

In what appeared to be a rather out-of-context comment except as a move to influence the two deputies, Mr. Chalabi asked: "Who else besides Saddam benefited from the eight to ten years of war, who benefited from supporting Saddam through trade and by opening roads to fight Islam ... but Jordan?"

Mr. Shbeilat replied that "this is not true."

The deputy, however, agreed with Mr. Chalabi's charge that the Saddam regime was repressive.

In tape number seven, Sheikh Qarash told Mr. Chalabi about a Lower House discussion on the Petra Bank case.

"Parliament has issued a very bad decision against Petra Bank," Sheikh Qarash said, adding that he had withdrawn from the session.

"The Muslim Brotherhood voted against you ... the Brotherhood finished you off," the deputy told Mr. Chalabi, who replied, "Of course, the Brothers are accomplices."

At another point, Mr. Chalabi was heard talking about a planned visit to Chicago in October and plans for a meeting with Sheikh Qarash there.

In the meantime, he said, "inform Laila of the change in plans."

The conversation in tape number eight mostly dealt with a cheque that

was supposed to have been received by Sheikh Qarash. Mr. Chalabi reminded that Sheikh Qarash would receive the cheque through someone called "Sa'id." No clue was available as to what the cheque represented.

Tape number nine, 10 and 11 contained telephone calls between Sheikh Qarash and Hassan Abdul Aziz, a former director of Petra Bank and general manager of Jordan Gulf Bank (Mr. Abdul Aziz was acquitted in the Petra Bank case which concluded early this year, but is one of the defendants in an ongoing trial related to Jordan Gulf Bank).

Again, the conversations and their direct relevance were not clear to the spectators in the court-room. The prosecution is expected to present its interpretations during its summation sometime this week.

Mr. Abdul Aziz was heard in the tape discussing efforts to call for a special Parliament session on the decision of the Economic Security Committee in July 1988 to take over Petra Bank and Jordan Gulf Bank.

In an annex to the charge-sheet, the prosecution has accused the defendants of discussing parliamentary affairs with outsiders and "receiving instructions."

The last two tapes contained commentaries made by Mr. Shbeilat at two public forums. The first was at the Professional Associations Complex on Feb. 22, 1992, in which the deputy commented on Libya's crisis with the West. Mr. Shbeilat criticised Arab governments of not extending real support for Iraq and Libya against the "new world order, which wants to attack the entire Arab World."

In the second commentary, made at a University of Jordan Alumni Club on May 12, 1992, Mr. Shbeilat again criticised the "new world order" and the Arab regimes which endorse it. He assailed the West, particularly the United States, for "exploiting the resources" of the Third World.

"Our leaders will not be part of the new world order if there was pressure from the peoples," he said. "Our leaders monitor all those who oppose the new world order."

"Everybody who remains silent over this new world order is a partner in the crime."

After the court finished hearing the tapes, Mr. Makhadmeh, the sound expert, was cross-examined by defence lawyers.

Mr. Bakr sought to cast doubt on the authenticity of the tapes and whether there were other experts who could corroborate the witness's testimony.

The line of questioning by Jamal Dimour, Sheikh Qarash's lawyer, was obviously aimed at opening the door for the possibility that the tapes were spliced or doctored otherwise. The witness testified that there was no such possibility. And prosecutor Hijazi brought out in indirect that if indeed there was any splicing or doctored of the tape then Mr. Makhadmeh, in his capacity as "a leading expert on sound," would not have failed to detect it.

Zuhair Abu Ragheb, a member of the Shbeilat defence team, also questioned the witness whether "superimposition" of voices or "editing" of the tapes introduced in court was possible. The witness replied in the negative.

Mr. Abu Ragheb's intense questioning led to a confrontation with Maj. Hijazi, who raised a point of objection half-way through a defence question saying the witness had already answered it. Mr. Abu Ragheb pointed his finger at Maj. Hijazi and demanded that the young prosecutor "stop interfering with my questioning of the witness."

The court took issue with the lawyer and ordered an on-record warning to the lawyer. "This is the last time we will accept such an outburst ... in this courtroom," said Lieutenant-Colonel Faour. When Mr. Abu Ragheb made his protestation, the judge served an ultimatum to the lawyer to "either continue your questioning or leave this courtroom."

Another tense moment came when the judge accused Sheikh Qarash of "laughing in a manner suggesting making fun ... and again recorded a warning to the accused that he could be thrown out of court and tried in absentia."

Sheikh Qarash's lawyers immediately offered an apology on behalf of their client.

The trial resumes today.

PCC to meet in Tunis Thursday

(Continued from page 1)

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) had agreed to the meeting of the PCC when its leader, George Habash, met with Mr. Arafat in Amman last week, aides to Dr. Habash said.

But on Monday, Mr. Arafat received letter signed by the PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) demanding that the session be indefinitely postponed, a senior PLO official said. There was no explanation for Dr. Habash's change of mind.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, who heads the PLO's information department, said the two groups, the largest in the PLO after Fatah, demanded that a dialogue among all Palestinian factions be launched before convening the PCC.

"This is an attempt to freeze the activities of the PLO and its legal institutions ... and allow other powers from outside the Palestinian framework to hijack the decision-making process with regard to the Palestinians," Mr. Abed Rabbo said in an interview.

He refused to elaborate, but he appeared to be alluding to Syria. Mr. Abed Rabbo refused to say if the two groups have threatened in their letter to boycott the PCC meeting if held as scheduled.

But he stressed that a postponement was out of the question.

"If they don't want to come, it's up to them," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

"Plans will go as scheduled and letters of invitation to the members already have been sent," he said. "Some (members) have even arrived in Tunis for the session."

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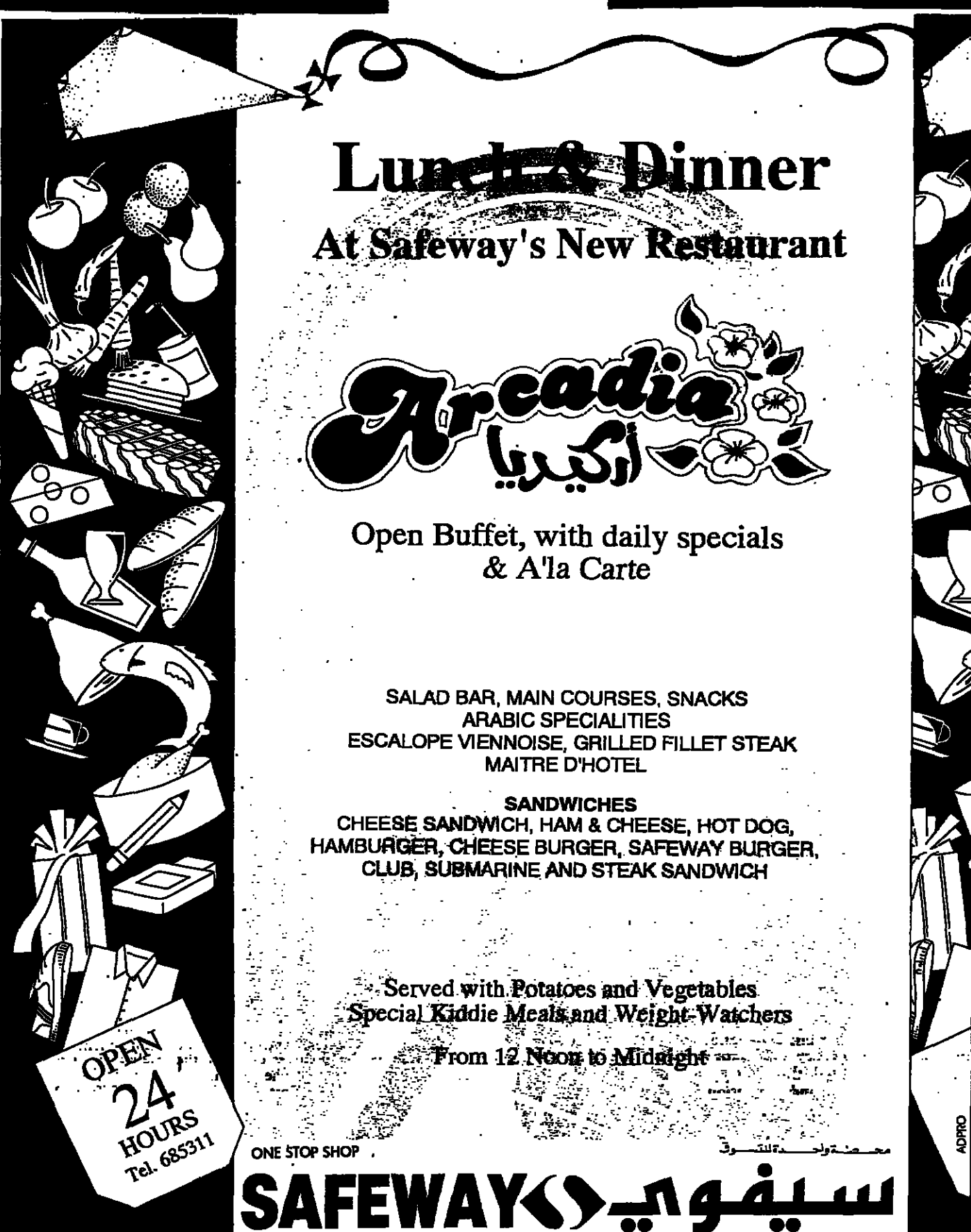
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Two Palestinians killed

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli officials have warned of a possible increase in attacks and infiltrations by headlines opposed to the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

An army statement said that two men in civilian clothes crossed the demarcation line about seven kilometres north of

Jericho. Troops gave chase, then opened fire and killed both men, it added.

The last infiltration attempt was Aug. 4, when three armed men were killed and two soldiers were wounded in a clash north of Jericho. Hizbollah-Palestine, a pro-Iranian group, claimed responsibility for the incident.

Pharaoh ralliers speed off into Egyptian desert

THE TRAIN

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WELL, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE TO CATCH YOUR TRAIN IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'!

OH, SO THAT'S IT, EH? WELL IF YOU MUST KNOW, NOSY I'M GOIN' TO BOSTON!

HERE'S YOUR TRAIN! QUICK! GET ON HERE, SIR!

HA HA! I GUESS I FOOLED YOU THAT TIME! I'M REALLY GOIN' TO PHILADELPHIA!

268

4	bonchman		tinople...		52 Put on cargo		63 Unload aprons		82 Unlock, to posts
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Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 9/10/92	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 12/10/92
Sterling Pound	1.6020	1.7158
Deutsche Mark	1.4880	1.4642
Swiss Franc	1.3160	1.2956
French Franc	5.0460	4.9620**
Japanese Yen	121.85	121.02
European Currency Unit	1.3155	1.3345**

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.79	3.79	3.38
Sterling Pound	8.93	8.81	8.31	8.72
Deutsche Mark	9.00	8.81	8.43	8.00
Swiss Franc	6.00	6.31	6.18	6.12
French Franc	11.62	10.25	10.75	9.50
Japanese Yen	4.00	5.81	5.75	5.62
European Currency Unit	11.12	11.00	10.63	10.00

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	350.08	6.75	Silver	3.77	.082

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 12/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.678	0.680
Sterling Pound	1.1610	1.1668
Deutsche Mark	0.4624	0.4647
Swiss Franc	0.5228	0.5254
French Franc	0.1363	0.1370
Japanese Yen	0.5596	0.5624
Dutch Guilder	0.4110	0.4131
Swedish Krona	0.1231	0.1237
Italian Lira	0.0527	0.0530
Belgian Franc	0.02215	0.02226

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7490	1.7510
Lebanese Lira	0.08658	0.08658
Saudi Riyal	0.1805	0.1817
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.3000
Omani Riyal	0.1837	0.1847
Egyptian Pound	0.2008	0.2100
Qatari Riyal	1.7300	1.7440
UAE Dirham	0.1837	0.1847
Greek Drachmas	0.3559	0.3619
Cypriot Pound	1.5390	1.5590

Index	10/10/92	Close	11/10/92	Close
All-Share	151.63		151.80	
Banking Sector	114.95		115.43	
Insurance Sector	163.31		160.70	
Industry Sector	198.13		198.23	
Services Sector	220.80		219.69	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.7010/20	U.S. dollars	1.2430/35
One U.S. dollar	1.4690/700	Canadian dollar	1.6450/500
	1.2990/3005	Deutsche marks	30.20/24
	4.9850/900	Swiss francs	1297/1307
	121.00/10	Belgian francs	5.5175/275
	5.9750/850	French francs	5.6650/750
		Italian lire	
		Japanese yen	
		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$345.75/346.25		

China Communists unite with Deng's 'magic weapon'

BEIJING (R) — China's Communist Party, opening its first congress since the collapse of the Soviet bloc, vowed Monday to use the "magic weapon" of capitalist-style economic reform but ruled out any Western-style political change.

Declaring that China had begun a new revolution, General Secretary Jiang Zemin in his keynote speech opened an era when the tools of capitalism, from stocks to real estate markets, could all be used to make the country rich and keep the Communist Party in power.

"Reform is also a revolution, a revolution to liberate the productive forces. It is the only way to modernize China," he said.

Mr. Jiang, who came to power in 1989 after the army crushed pro-democracy unrest, emphasized that the world's last major ruling Communist Party would under no circumstances give up its control of politics.

"This revolution is not intended to change the nature of our socialist system but to improve and develop it," he said.

"It would be absolutely wrong and harmful for anyone to doubt, weaken or negate the party's position in power and its leading role."

Repeatedly invoking the economic theories of Deng Xiaoping, Mr. Jiang said the 89-year-old paramount leader's vision of "building socialism with Chinese characteristics" was a "magic weapon guaranteeing that our party will always be vigorous."

Premier Li Peng, a member of the party's highest council, the six-member Politburo Standing Committee, hailed the concept proposed in Mr. Jiang's speech of a "socialist market economy" as "a major theoretical breakthrough," Xinhua said.

The congress, the first in five years and perhaps the last to be held while Mr. Deng is still alive, is his attempt to ensure that his plans for China's 1.1 billion people will be a lasting legacy, Chinese sources said.

While Mr. Deng, a specially invited delegate, did not attend the opening ceremony, he was healthy, his daughter said.

"My father is hale and hearty," Xinhua quoted Deng Nan, a dele-

gate, as saying.

Mr. Jiang, following Mr. Deng's line, vowed a sweeping overhaul of China's lumbering socialist-style, centrally-planned economy.

"It is no minor patching up of the economic structure but a fundamental restructuring of the economy," he said.

But Mr. Jiang promised the 2,000 delegates in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing's Tiananmen Square that no matter how the economy changed, the Communist Party would never give up control.

He ruled out absolutely China's every having a Western, multi-party parliamentary system.

The 66-year-old party leader

praised the June 4, 1989, army assault on Tiananmen Square that crushed the student-led pro-democracy movement and swore never to allow political turmoil in China again.

"Without political and social stability, any attempt to carry out reform...and to promote economic development would be out of the question," he said.

"We must adhere to the four cardinal principles (of Chinese communism) and resolutely eliminate all factors that might lead to unrest or turmoil," he pointed out.

Delegates to the congress, which will select a reshuffled leadership before it ends around Oct. 18, immediately praised Mr. Jiang's speech in statements to the official, state-controlled media.

The 268 armed forces delegates, the largest of 34 delegations to the congress, pledged "to provide a strong security guarantee for the country's reform, opening and economic development," Xinhua News Agency said.

While the Communist Party is intent on using the congress as a celebration of unanimity — "the party's unity is its life," Mr. Jiang said — a number of hardline Marxists are opposed to the wholesale abandonment of traditional economic ideals.

They may still be able to force further compromises as Mr. Jiang's words are translated into policies, analysts said.

Taiwan gold imports surge

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan, one of the world's major buyers of gold, increased imports sharply in August after lifting restrictions on trade in the metal, the finance ministry has said.

Imports of gold bars, coins and plate surged about 68 per cent to 15.45 tonnes worth about \$175 million in August from 9.2 tonnes in July, and 9.23 tonnes in August 1991, the ministry said.

Taiwan removed a 43-year-old ban on gold exports and lifted remaining import restrictions on Aug. 1 under its programme of financial liberalisation.

Bullion dealers said the lifting of the export ban had encouraged more imports by giving investors the opportunity to sell abroad if they wished. "There is a positive impact in stimulating gold imports," ministry director Yang Tsai-Yuan said by telephone.

Imports will continue to rise for the rest of the year, he said.

Taiwan's total gold imports to 133 tonnes for the first eight months of this year, up from 67.9 tonnes in the same period a year earlier.

British economic gloom deepens with job losses, lower confidence

LONDON (R) — Falling industrial confidence and further job losses deepened Britain's business gloom Monday, piling pressure on Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont to act to revive the ailing economy.

Engineering group Lucas Industries said it was shedding 4,000 jobs worldwide, half of them in Britain.

A string of leading British manufacturers have announced job cuts almost daily this month as unemployment, which has risen steadily for the past two years, nears three million or 10 per cent of the workforce.

Mr. Lamont is under heavy pressure to stimulate an economic revival and help hard-pressed companies and ordinary Britons by cutting interest rates further.

They were lowered one point to nine per cent after ERM (Ex-

change Rate Mechanism) withdrawal.

"If he doesn't suggest a base rate cut soon, there could be the smell of a burning chancellor," said Tony Norfield, chief economist at merchant bank Hill Samuel.

Noting the Lucas job cuts, opposition Labour Party shadow chancellor Gordon Brown said Mr. Lamont's "mismanagement has meant that the economy is now facing a new wave of redundancies."

Mr. Brown's deputy, Harriet Harman, joined calls for him to quit. "The chancellor must resign because he has lost the confidence of other European finance ministers with whom we have to do business."

"More importantly, he has lost the confidence of people here at home. He has shown no willingness or ability to end the recession and start the process of economic recovery," she said.

A survey published Monday found industrial confidence had fallen sharply since "black Wednesday." The quarterly Dun Bradstreet poll of 1,900 managing directors reported eight out of 10 companies expect no improvement or a decline in sales, profits or new orders in the next three months.

An earlier survey also released Monday showed that the financial-services sector recorded lower business volumes and a sharp downturn in confidence in the three months leading up to "black Wednesday."

The Confederation of British Industry and Coopers Lybrand survey of 317 companies said: "The improvement in business

Schwinn Bicycle files for bankruptcy

CHICAGO (AP) — Schwinn Bicycle Co., in the business of making bicycles for nearly a century, has said that it filed for federal bankruptcy protection.

The privately held Schwinn was forced to reorganise under chapter 11 of the bankruptcy laws because of heavy debts guaranteed by the protracted sluggishness of the economy, the company said in a statement.

The filing — which will protect the company from its creditors while it devises a business plan — was made Wednesday in U.S. bankruptcy court here.

"We are confident that Schwinn will emerge from bankruptcy as a stronger company," Edward Schwinn, president and chief executive, said. Schwinn said it was considering "equity investments or merger of the company."

Once a leader in the industry, the 97-year-old company saw its market share dwindle to around 12 per cent in the mid-1970s, and to seven per cent today.

Sales fell to \$186 million in 1991 from about \$200 million the previous year. The company doesn't release its profit figures.

IFC sees strong economy and markets in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's bourse is among the world's strongest emerging markets, trade with Central Asia is set to boom and several big power projects are in the offing, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) said at the weekend.

"With the impressive steps the government has taken to deregulate and privatise the industrial and financial sectors, I believe Pakistan has the potential to make major strides in its economic development," said Andre Hovagimian, IFC director for Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

He cited Pakistan's stock market as the third best performing among 20 emerging markets last year, saying it had "tremendous growth potential."

The IFC, the Washington-based private sector affiliate of the World Bank, has so far invested \$450 million in Pakistan and this figure could rise rapidly in the next two years when several large projects are expected to take shape.

The IFC is involved mainly in helping Pakistan to develop its fledgling financial markets, introducing new financial instruments into its Islamic banking system, Mr. Hovagimian said.

It also lays emphasis on supporting industrial and infrastructure projects and attracting international financing to large investment projects, he said.

The IFC is helping the Karachi Stock Exchange set up an orderly regulatory mechanism, is establishing a central shares depository and trying to put a credit rating agency in place, said Khalid Mirza, IFC regional manager capital markets.

He identified a lack of "transparency" and the reluctance of Pakistan's industries to disclose details of their business as problems that need to be solved.

Capitalisation of the Karachi Stock Exchange soared 219 per cent to 218.35 billion rupees (\$8.66 billion) in June, from 68.43 billion rupees (\$2.74 billion) in June 1991 after the government lifted restrictions on foreign participation.

It fell to 197.74 billion rupees (\$7.85 billion) the next month and has remained in the doldrums, which analysts blamed on political uncertainty amid an army crackdown on crime.

"Share values represent excellent value for investment," Khalid Mirza said.

The IFC is also helping to set up Pakistan's first private housing

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First U.S. debate brings no knockouts, but may boost Clinton

ST. LOUIS, Missouri (R) — Bill Clinton might have clinched the Nov. 3 U.S. election with a blunder-free performance in Sunday's first presidential debate and Ross Perot clearly refurbished his image but George Bush isn't conceding defeat.

"Stay with our programme and watch us move this country forward," the embattled president told his supporters at a post-debate rally after they bravely proclaimed him the winner of the televised debate seen by more than 60 million voters.

But quick polls taken after the debate told a different, and for Mr. Bush supporters, a far more depressing story.

Separate Gallup polls for Newsweek and CNN/USA Today showed Mr. Perot a clear winner of the debate ahead of Democrat Bill Clinton with President Bush a distant third.

A third poll by ABC News of 637 registered voters, which had a sampling error of plus or minus 4.5 points, showed 28 per cent said Mr. Clinton won, 24 per cent put Perot ahead and 18 per cent put Bush ahead. Twenty-six per cent scored it a tie.

The CNN poll showed that the voters felt Mr. Clinton had the best grasp of the issues. Mr. Bush was rated second in that category and Mr. Perot finished third.

Asked by a reporter who won, Mr. Bush shrugged his shoulders. University of Virginia political analyst Larry Sabato said Mr. Clinton, who leads Mr. Bush by a substantial margin in popularity polls just 22 days before the election, "did what he had to do" in the debate.

"Bush made his points well... but he did not fundamentally change the equation of the election, which is what he had to do," Mr. Sabato told CNN's Larry King Live.

The one truly dramatic moment of the debate — the first of three in eight days — came when Mr. Clinton accused the president of impugning his patriotism on Vietnam War issues and comparing Mr. Bush unfavorably to his father, Connecticut Senator Prescott Bush, who once stood up to red-baiting Senator Joseph McCarthy.

"Your father was right to stand up to Joe McCarthy. You were wrong to attack my patriotism. I was opposed to the war, but I love my country. And we need a president who will bring this country together, not divide it," he said.

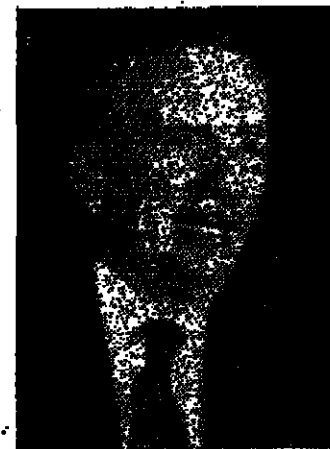
But Mr. Perot, a Texas billionaire seen as an eccentric egotist because of his on-again, off-



George Bush



Bill Clinton



Ross Perot

again flirtation with presidential politics, frequently upstaged Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton with tart quotes on America's failed leadership, its disastrous budget deficits and its need to swallow austerity to recover.

"The party's over, and it's time for the clean-up crew," he said in one of his folksy sallies at politics as usual.

Despite Mr. Perot's strong performance political analysts cautioned that the effect of presidential debates on the actual election are historically only transitory, peoples' confirming inclinations rather than changing their votes.

Even before the debate ended, the candidates' top advisers and leading supporters flooded the press room to interpret the encounter.

Mr. Bush's surrogates went to great lengths to praise Mr. Perot's performance, obviously convinced that the independent could siphon support from Mr. Clinton and change the dynamics of the presidential campaign.

"Circuitously, Bush wins because Perot did so well. Perot doing so well... helps George Bush look presidential," said Housing Secretary Jack Kemp.

Afterwards, a smiling Clinton rushed out of the Washington University Gymnasium where the encounter took place and shook hands with about 50 well-wishers lined up to greet him.

The Arkansas governor even shook hands with a Bush partisan who told him: "I hope you lose — Bush-Quayle all the way."

Mr. Clinton then attended a large outdoor rally attended by a wildly cheering crowd estimated at 7,000 people before flying to Philadelphia to campaign Monday.

"We have three weeks and one day to win the election and change the country...and lift up the people. That's what I tried to do tonight. That's what I'm going to do for three more weeks. That's what I want you to commit yourself to. We owe it to the American people," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Perot planned to continue his unconventional campaign which relies on televised appeals for support rather than in-person vote getting efforts.

President Bush has sought to convince sceptical voters that he has what it takes to solve America's economic woes, but instead he may have ended up confusing them by casually announcing a future new role for Jim Baker.

Mr. Bush, who badly trails Democratic challenger Bill Clinton in opinion polls, said that he would bring in politically savvy White House Chief of Staff James Baker to coordinate domestic policy if he won reelection next month.

The abrupt about-face — Mr. Bush only a week ago said he expected Mr. Baker to return to his former job as secretary of state after the Nov. 3 election — was one of the few surprises in the first presidential debate Sunday night that broke little new ground on the economic front.

But it wasn't clear what Bush had planned for Mr. Baker — or for the economy — with some seeing the side as a domestic policy czar and others just as manager of the transition team to a second term.

Currency dealers in Tokyo said the debate had little impact on trading there, adding that the markets paid more attention to remarks Saturday by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that the economy was "very sluggish."

With the next president — whoever he is — hampered from taking dramatic action to boost the economy because of the big budget deficit — analysts said the future course of the economy

may lie more in the hands of Mr. Greenspan.

"Although the candidates want to move in opposite directions, the leash on the next president will be quite short," said Roger Brimmer and David Wynn of the Massachusetts-based DRI/McGraw Hill think tank.

Mr. Bush hotly defended his administration's conciliatory policy towards China Sunday, saying he would not embrace Mr. Clinton's approach and "isolate" Peking.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton also differed on the U.S. forces necessary in Europe, with Mr. Clinton citing a study saying the troops there could be reduced to 100,000 now that the cold war is over.

Mr. Bush said Communist China had made progress on human rights issues, although not enough. "But... kind of humiliating them is not the way you make the kind of progress we are getting," the president said.

"Governor Clinton's philosophy is isolate them... you isolate China and turn them inward, and then we've made a tremendous mistake. And I'm not going to do it," Mr. Bush said.

The president said he had imposed some sanctions against Peking, while backing the granting of most favoured nation (MFN) trading status for China because of its economic reforms.

Mr. Clinton said he would make MFN trading status contingent on more Chinese progress in the human rights area.

"I would be firm. I would say if you want to continue most-favoured-nation status for your government-owned industries as well as your private ones, observe human rights in the future, open your society, recognize the legitimacy of those kids that were carrying the statue of liberty" in the pro-democracy Tiananmen Square demonstrations of 1989, Mr. Clinton said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Iliescu wins in Romania

BUCHAREST (R) — Veteran former Communist Ion Iliescu has clinched victory in the second and final round of Romania's presidential elections, incomplete official results showed Monday. The 62-year-old former aide to late Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu has 56 per cent of the vote, well ahead of opposition challenger Emil Constantinescu who is currently on 42 per cent, the Central Electoral Authority said. The figure was based on an incomplete tally, with ballots from almost half of the polling stations counted. The pro-democracy election monitoring group also said Mr. Iliescu had won with almost two thirds of the vote, based on an independent parallel count. The final official result is not expected before Tuesday. On Sunday Romanians voted in a presidential run-off ballot that tested whether this Balkan country of 23 million people was ready for a clear break with its Communist past.

Russians board Greenpeace ship

MOSCOW (R) — Russian coastguards fired three shots across the bow of a Greenpeace ship investigating nuclear contamination in the far north and boarded the vessel, the environmental group said. A spokesman for Russian Border Forces confirmed the incident and said the Dutch-registered Solo was boarded and searched after it crossed illegally into Russian territorial waters. Greenpeace spokeswoman Eleanor O'Hanlon said in Moscow that two officers and 10 coastguards boarded the Solo and were holding talks with the captain and other leaders of the environmental group. Ms. O'Hanlon said information from the ship indicated the Solo vessel was in international waters when it was boarded. In Amsterdam, where Greenpeace is based, spokeswoman Fanny Verbeek said two Russian officers and 10 men boarded the Solo off the Russian island of Novaya Zemlya at around 0930 GMT.

Minister's call may spell Kanemaru's end

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese cabinet minister's blunt call Monday for the resignation of the ruling party's scandal-tainted backstage boss could spell the end of Shin Kanemaru's reign as "kingmaker." "There is no other course but for him to take moral responsibility and resign," Construction Minister Taku Yamazaki told a rally in Kobe, western Japan. "The fact that stones are being thrown at him from every side makes this not only a problem for Mr. Kanemaru, but an issue engulfing Japanese politics as a whole," Mr. Yamazaki said. Mr. Yamazaki was the first member of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet to speak out openly against the kingmaker and his statement means the highest ranks of government have now joined the chorus decrying Mr. Kanemaru.

Explosion shatters London pub

LONDON (AP) — An explosion shattered a pub at lunch time Monday in the popular Covent Garden area, injuring four people, police and ambulance workers said. One person was hospitalised with serious injuries. "There was blood everywhere," said Graham Anderson, manager of the Ice Tea House across the street from the pub. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion in the Suxter Pub, which followed a series of seven Irish Republican Army (IRA) attacks in London last week. Police said the explosion at 1:32 p.m. (1232 GMT) came nine minutes after a warning was telephoned to a radio station. London Ambulance Service said one "emergency" casualty was taken to University College Hospital, and three other injured people were being treated at the scene.

Americans awarded Nobel Medicine Prize

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded Monday to two Americans who illuminated a basic biological mechanism useful in preventing the rejection of organ transplants.

Edmond Fischer, 72, and Edwin Krebs, 74, will share the \$1.2 million prize for their discoveries in the 1950s concerning "reversible protein phosphorylation."

Their work has helped scientists understand such things as how the drug Cyclosporin prevents rejection of transplanted organs, why certain cancers develop and how the body uses sugar to produce energy.

The two men, who work at the University of Washington in Seattle, purified and characterised the first enzyme that helps regulate the interaction of proteins, said the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute, which awarded the prize.

"Their fundamental finding initiated a research area which now is one of the most active and wide-ranging," the assembly said. "I'm totally overwhelmed."

Dr. Fischer told the Associated Press by telephone from his Seattle home. "It's surprising, because when you think how many persons are doing superb work in the field, you can think of literally dozens of other people who would deserve it."

Dr. Krebs and Dr. Fischer have worked together since the early 1950s.

Proteins are the tools of the living organism, regulating its reactions and activities. Among other functions, proteins maintain dictate growth and cellular division, release hormones and mediate muscular work.

The assembly said Dr. Fischer and Dr. Krebs' basic discoveries were made through studies of a special muscle system. They "showed how proteins in the muscle cell rapidly make the energy supply accessible for muscular work."

Of the 153 winners of the prize from 1901 through 1992, 69 have been American, although German scientists Edwin Heber and Bert Sakmann broke a U.S. streak last year.

The prize is usually shared, as the committee tries to honour the explosion of research that has led to medical cures, treatments and understanding of how the body works and how it breaks down.

The award, one of five endowed by the will of Swedish dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel, is commonly thought of as the "Medicine Prize." But it is also meant to honour discoveries in physiology, the study of how living organisms function.

Commonwealth leaders agreed at a summit Friday to send a Kyrgyz peacekeeping force to the Tajikistan if leaders in the former Soviet republic formally agreed.

Acting Tajik President Akbarbek Iskandarov also appealed for urgent humanitarian aid, including technical assistance to strengthen law enforcement.

Hundreds of people have died in clashes between opponents at supporters of ousted President Rakhmon Nabiyev, forced to resign last month.

A separate TASS report from the Tajik capital Dushanbe said several people had been killed over the weekend in fighting between rival factions in the southern Kurgan-Tyube faction.

Fighting centred on the Kurgan-Tyube State Farm and the regional capital Kurgan-Tyube. TASS quoted refugees from the area as saying electricity supplies were cut and industry had come to a halt.

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Shevardnadze wins in Georgian elections

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Eduard Shevardnadze overwhelmingly won election to Georgia's top post of parliament chairman, giving a decisive vote of confidence to his troubled government; preliminary results showed Monday.

The former Soviet foreign minister won about 95 per cent of the vote in Sunday's balloting in the war-torn Caucasus Mountains nation, according to Merab Alakidze, chairman of the Central Election Committee.

The balloting was seen as a referendum on the legitimacy of Mr. Shevardnadze's rule as head of the ruling State Council. He had returned to lead his native land in March after the ouster of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who ran unopposed, easily achieved the required one-third of the vote to win the nation's highest elected post. Results showed he received wide-ranging support across the country — including areas of western Georgia where Mr. Gamsakhurdia has remained popular since he was overthrown in January.

About 83 per cent of the 3.6 million eligible voters turned out, despite the civil strife in the former Soviet republic.

The elections were postponed in nine districts: in several Gamsakhurdia strongholds of western Georgia; the ethnically troubled area of South Ossetia; and the breakaway region of Abkhazia, where Georgian troops have fought separatists for seven weeks. In all, some 316,000 people in these areas were deprived of their vote, officials said.

In a speech on Georgian television early Monday, Mr. Shevardnadze said the election would turn the country "toward democracy."

"I worship my people and I am ready to kneel in front of them, thanking them for their wisdom," he said. "The enthusiasm for the election showed that hope still exists."

Mr. Shevardnadze said he hoped to find a political solution to the fighting in Abkhazia, but "if there is no such solution, we'll have to look for a military solution that would cause as few casualties as possible."

"But one condition must be fulfilled: There must be Georgian forces on the border between Georgia and Russia," he said.

Following a series of victories this month, Abkhazian troops — bolstered by Muslim militants from southern Russia — control the region from its capital of Sukhumi to the border with Russia, a distance of 100 kilometres. Mr. Shevardnadze last week demanded the separatists give back all territory they seized after Oct. 1.

Mr. Shevardnadze, 64, wielded control over Georgia when he was its Communist Party first secretary from 1972 until 1985. When Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union, he chose Mr. Shevardnadze as his foreign minister, and together the two mapped an end to the cold war with the West.

Preliminary results also showed that the other three members of the State Council — Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani, and State Council First Deputy Chairman Dzhaba Ioseliani — were elected to parliament, the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported.

Three centrist factions won the majority of seats in the 234-member parliament — the 11th of October Bloc, the Mtskhvoda (Peace) Bloc and Ertoba (Unity) Bloc. The 11th of October faction also includes members of the Nationalist People's Front.

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Serbs open lifeline in northern Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs said Monday they had forced open a lifeline corridor in north Bosnia shut down by fierce fighting with Croat and Muslim units.

"Traffic has been re-established through the liberated corridor near Brcko," said a statement by the Bosnian Serb army.

The corridor, linking Serbia proper with Krajina in Croatia, had been broken for several days, trapping travellers and refugees during a major outburst of fighting in the area.

The fighting followed the fall of Bosanski Brod, the last major town in north Bosnia still held by Croats, on Tuesday.

The corridor is the only supply route for Krajina, a Serb-held enclave in Croatia, and it is all the more vital with the approach of the bitter Balkan winter.

Serb soldiers told journalists that seven of their own men had been killed in the fighting and that they believed scores of Croats had died.

Journalists saw tanks reduced to smouldering wrecks in Brcko as exhausted Serb soldiers waved flags and gave Serbian three-finger salutes, combining the V-for-victory and a sign of the Christian Holy Trinity.

Houses burned but there were no corpses to be seen.

"During the battle for the liberation of this road the army of the Serb Republic (of Bosnia-Herzegovina) destroyed four enemy tanks," the army statement said.

Fighting in north Bosnia has focused on Gradacac, the last town still held by Muslims in the region, amid strong evidence that the Serbs are violating a United Nations no-fly ban and launching fierce air attacks on the town.

"If confirmed, this defiance will put Security Council resolve to the test as its ban did not specify how the zone would be enforced other than to say 'urgent measures' would be taken."

The Serbs have denied using warplanes over the past several days and a senior Bosnian Serb official said Monday that the United States was plying pressure and indirectly threatening military intervention.

"Because of (U.S. President George) Bush's election campaign, the Serbian Republic (of Bosnia-Herzegovina) has been exposed to severe pressure," Aleksa Buha, the self-proclaimed republic's foreign minister, said.

"The next 20 days are decisive and therefore we have to do everything we can not to provide an excuse for intervention."

Bosnian radio reported Monday that Gradacac was quiet with only sporadic mortar bombs but added that heavy battles took place in Bilbac, a Muslim-held pocket in the northwest along the border with Croatia.

The war in Bosnia began when the former Yugoslav republic's Serb minority rebelled against its international recognition which was the wish of its Croats and Muslims.

Both Serbs and Croats, although at war with one another, agree that the republic should be divided along ethnic lines unlike the Muslims who are fighting for a unitary state.

Sarajevo was relatively calm Monday. Only occasional shooting on the city's outskirts marred what police called one of the quietest nights of the war.

The old town, target of some of the fiercest shelling, was very quiet, like new Sarajevo to the west, although there was some anti-aircraft fire in Vogosca, north of the city.

Police attributed the lull to the presence in the city of General Philippe Morillon, commander of United Nations forces in Bosnia.

The city has been relatively quiet since last Wednesday when three days of fierce fighting in and around the Hrasno district, west of the centre, died down.

Sarajevo remained without water or electricity despite repeated radio broadcasts over the weekend saying that service would be restored.

Irfan Dunic, the director of Sarajevo's electric company, said the city was due to get power during the day.

The broadcasts credit the U.N. Protection Force with trying to help restore service but blame Serb forces for undermining the effort, charging they had cut power transmission lines that had just been repaired.

COLUMBUS

Amazon still yielding secrets

NEW YORK (AP) — A pocket-sized monkey with a koala-like face has been discovered in a remote part of the Amazon, the latest evidence that the world's largest rain forest has yet to give up all of its secrets, a biologist said. The monkey, which has a hint of zebra stripes, is "a completely new species" and its discovery "shows how poorly we still know an area like the Amazon," said Russell Mittermeier of Conservation International. The environmental group, based in Washington, D.C., conducts research projects aimed at preserving threatened species and biological diversity. Mr. Mittermeier's formal scientific description of the monkey will be published Monday — Columbus Day — in the Brazilian scientific journal Goeldiana. "It's a minor discovery to commemorate the discovery of America," he said. The monkey, christened the Mames (pronounced Mah-ways) Marmoset, was found earlier this year by Marco Schwarz, a Swiss biologist, in an undisturbed area near the Mames River, a tributary of the Amazon. 1,200 kilometres upriver from the Amazon Delta.

Tattoo fest draws body art lovers and wearers

NEW YORK (AP) — Rumps, breasts, backs, thighs, hips, calves, ankles — all were adorned with ink and on display as human canvases showed off their body art for each other and a panel of judges at the seventh annual Tattoo Festival. Equal parts art exhibit, freak show and peep show, the festival drew hundreds of tattoo artists and wearers. "This is not a moment for shyness. This is a moment for exhibitionism," exhorted Ari Kousinoff, a New York filmmaker who served as master of ceremonies. Some sported one demure tattoo; others were covered with intricate designs. Some bore simple black etchings; others boasted colorful flesh tapestries. "It's addictive," said Tanya Shihabut, 18, of New York, who got on stage to show off a flaming cat engraved on her left hip. "I was a male, I'd probably tattoo my whole body."

3rd set of Siamese twins born in Chile in 10 days

SANTIAGO (R) — Three sets of Siamese twins have been born in Chile within the last 10 days, the state Television Nacional said Sunday. The third pair, two boys joined at the chest, were born at a central Santiago hospital but died shortly afterwards, doctors told Television Nacional, which showed film of the pair immediately after their birth. Doctors are studying whether they can separate two more pairs, one born in Santiago and another in the nearby town of Rancagua in the last 10 days. Pediatrician Fanny Cortes told Television Nacional that drugs could be responsible for the phenomenon.

Bush's briefs bag big bucks

PIQUA, Ohio (AP) — Linda Roth wanted a brief bit of history. Or a bit of briefs history. So she paid \$325 for a pair of President George Bush's undershorts. Ms. Roth donated the autographed undies for this weekend's great outdoor underwear festival. "Buying the underwear was a piece of history," said Ms. Roth, who bid by telephone. She said she also bought the shorts "to encourage people to vote for George Bush." Mr. Bush may be — ahem — behind in the polls, but he beat Democrat Bill Clinton in the bidding. Ron Bell of Troy paid \$200 for a pair of shorts autographed by Mr. Clinton and his running mate, Al Gore. The festival started in 1988 to promote the city and its heritage. In the early 1980s, Piqua had eight knitting mills that produced lingerie, men's shorts and other underwear. One mill remains in operation. Proceeds from the auction go toward future festivals.

Study: Computer chip workers risk miscarriage

NEW YORK (AP) — A study commissioned by IBM has found a high incidence of miscarriage among women who manufacture computer chips. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore found a 33.3 per cent miscarriage rate among 30 women who worked with two chemicals widely used in making the chips.